

# GOD and HIS KINGDOM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT BOOKLET





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# Week 1: Acts—The Holy Spirit

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## Main Idea

If you are a Christian, we have access to a new spiritual nature (instead of a sinful/human nature). This week, we will focus on ways we feed each of those natures.

## Passage

Galatians 5:16-17, 24-25

<sup>16</sup> So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. <sup>17</sup> The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.

<sup>24</sup> Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. <sup>25</sup> Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.

## Teaching

- If we accept Jesus, then the Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ inside of us at all times.
- We are all born with a \_\_\_\_\_ nature.
- If we have a new \_\_\_\_\_ life through Jesus, we will inherit a spiritual nature.

- As Christians, our responsibility is to \_\_\_\_\_ our spiritual nature and \_\_\_\_\_ our sinful nature.
- Christians are to follow the Spirit's leading in \_\_\_\_\_ of our lives.

## Notes

[illegible]

Small Group Discussion:

- 1. Think of a time when you felt conflicted between doing the wrong thing and the right thing. What happened?
- 2. After Jesus ascended, he sent the Holy Spirit.
  - » What determines whether or not the Holy Spirit lives inside of you?
- 3. Sinful/Spiritual Nature Chart
  - » Think back through this past week and fill out the chart below with ways you have fed your sinful nature and some ways to feed a spiritual nature/your spiritual nature (if you are in Christ).

Feeding My Sinful Nature	Feeding My Spiritual Nature
-	-
-	-

- 4. Why do you think it's important that we feed our spiritual nature?
- 5. Write down one step you can take this week to strengthen your spiritual nature and kill your sinful nature. Share that step with your group.

## Week 2: Acts—Stephen

### Main Idea

Are you willing to step into situations that might cause friction or persecution because you know and follow Jesus?

### Passage

Acts 7:54-60

<sup>54</sup> The Jewish leaders were infuriated by Stephen's accusation, and they shook their fists at him in rage. <sup>55</sup> But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed steadily into heaven and saw the glory of God, and he saw Jesus standing in the place of honor at God's right hand. <sup>56</sup> And he told them, "Look, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing in the place of honor at God's right hand!"

<sup>57</sup> Then they put their hands over their ears and began shouting. They rushed at him <sup>58</sup> and dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. His accusers took off their coats and laid them at the feet of a young man named Saul.

<sup>59</sup> As they stoned him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." <sup>60</sup> He fell to his knees, shouting, "Lord, don't charge them with this sin!" And with that, he died.

### Teaching

Turn to the Scripture for today: John 11

- If you are going to follow Jesus, \_\_\_\_\_ is a part of it.
- Following Jesus cost Stephen his \_\_\_\_\_, and he was okay with it.

- ## Notes

[illegible]

## Small Group Discussion:

1. What is the scariest thing about telling others about Jesus? Have you ever been ridiculed for sharing what you believe about God?
2. What emotions do you think Stephen experienced?
3. What was his response, despite fear of man and what others may think?
4. There are several ways that we can actively live out our faith at home, in school, in sports, in friend groups, etc.
  - » If you are a believer, what is one thing you know God wants you to do, but you are scared to do it? How can the reality that Jesus is enough help you step into taking action?
  - » If you are not following Jesus with your life, are you willing to deny your own desires so that you can turn and choose God's good plan for your life?

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## Week 3: Acts—Saul’s Conversion

### Main Idea

Are you doing things to earn God’s favor,  
or are you trusting in Jesus to save you?

### Passage

Acts 9:1-9

<sup>1</sup> Meanwhile, Saul was uttering threats with every breath and was eager to kill the Lord’s followers. So he went to the high priest. <sup>2</sup> He requested letters addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, asking for their cooperation in the arrest of any followers of the Way he found there. He wanted to bring them—both men and women—back to Jerusalem in chains.

<sup>3</sup> As he was approaching Damascus on this mission, a light from heaven suddenly shone down around him. <sup>4</sup> He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?”

<sup>5</sup> “Who are you, lord?” Saul asked.

And the voice replied, “I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting! <sup>6</sup> Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

<sup>7</sup> The men with Saul stood speechless, for they heard the sound of someone’s voice but saw no one! <sup>8</sup> Saul picked himself up off the ground, but when he opened his eyes he was blind. So his companions led him by the hand to Damascus.

<sup>9</sup> He remained there blind for three days and did not eat or drink.

## Teaching

- \_\_\_\_\_: Religious group, people who taught in synagogues and in Israel at the time.
- Saul spent his \_\_\_\_\_ life learning about religion, but he didn't really \_\_\_\_\_ who God was to him.
- Paul had to learn the hard way that what he was doing was wrong and that \_\_\_\_\_ was the ultimate authority in his life.
- Are you living/doing whatever you want and \_\_\_\_\_ authority?
- \_\_\_\_\_ is the authority in your life? Are you listening to them?

## Notes

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## **Small Group Discussion:**

1. Have you ever done anything for your parents, coach, teacher, or friends just because you wanted to impress or please them?
2. What was Saul doing that he thought was pleasing to God?
3. Why did God have to interrupt Saul's life in such a disruptive way?
4. Is it possible to do "good" things and not really have God as the authority over our lives? What are some of these good things?
5. Do you tend to feel like God is more pleased with you when you have been doing these "good" things? Why or why not?
6. How are the lives of people under Jesus' authority different from the ones who have themselves as an authority?

## Week 4: Church—Living Out Redemption

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### Main Idea

Does your lifestyle reflect your faith? Do we reflect God's family to others? Do you live in such a way that portrays who God is—so much so that those on the outside wonder why we do what we do?

### Passage

Ephesians 4:21-32

<sup>21</sup> Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, <sup>22</sup> throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. <sup>23</sup> Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. <sup>24</sup> Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.

<sup>25</sup> So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body. <sup>26</sup> And “don’t sin by letting anger control you.” Don’t let the sun go down while you are still angry, <sup>27</sup> for anger gives a foothold to the devil.

<sup>28</sup> If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need. <sup>29</sup> Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

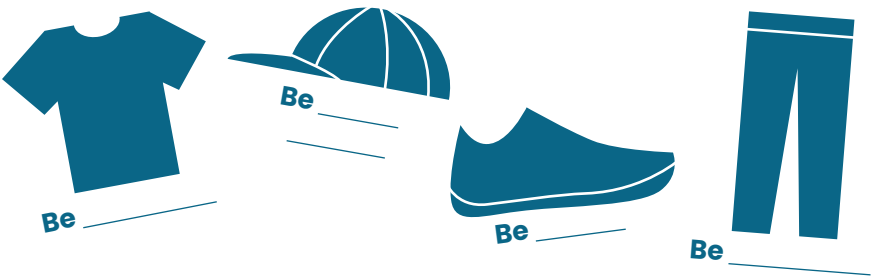
<sup>30</sup> And do not bring sorrow to God’s Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption.

<sup>31</sup> Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. <sup>32</sup> Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

Teaching

- If we have placed our trust in Jesus, we have \_\_\_\_\_ to life’s biggest questions.
- What is it like to \_\_\_\_\_ a new christian nature and to be like Jesus—righteous and holy?

Putting on a New Christian Nature



- We should all be \_\_\_\_\_ if we are following Jesus.

Notes

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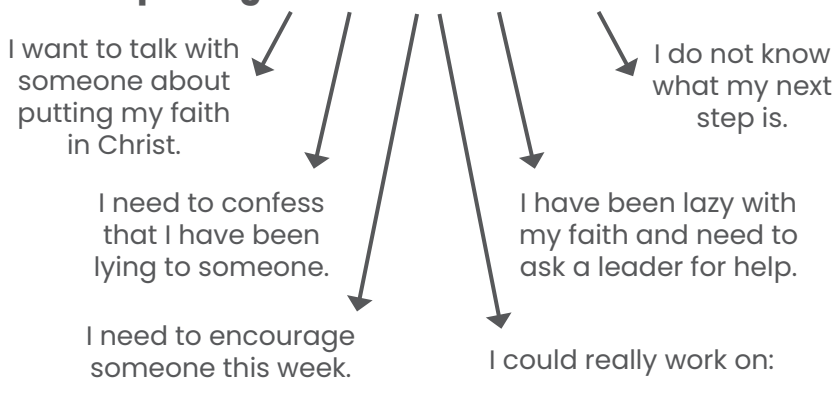
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## Small Group Discussion:

Read the Scripture from Today: Ephesians 4:21-32

1. When Paul says to “throw off” your former ways of living, what do you think that means? What does this look like in your life?
2. What does the Scripture say about what it looks like to put on a new Christian nature?
  - » 1) Being truthful
  - » 2) Being level-headed
  - » 3) Being honest
  - » 4) Being encouraging
3. What are some steps you can take today to practice putting on a new Christian nature? Circle all that apply.

### **Steps I can take today to practice putting on a new Christian nature.**



## Week 5: Jesus—Final Judgment

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### Main Idea

How does God's story end?

### Passage

Revelation 20:7-15

<sup>7</sup> When the thousand years come to an end, Satan will be let out of his prison. <sup>8</sup> He will go out to deceive the nations—called Gog and Magog—in every corner of the earth. He will gather them together for battle—a mighty army, as numberless as sand along the seashore. <sup>9</sup> And I saw them as they went up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded God's people and the beloved city. But fire from heaven came down on the attacking armies and consumed them.

<sup>10</sup> Then the devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, joining the beast and the false prophet. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

<sup>11</sup> And I saw a great white throne and the one sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from his presence, but they found no place to hide. <sup>12</sup> I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God's throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books. <sup>13</sup> The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave gave up their dead. And all were judged according to their deeds. <sup>14</sup> Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. <sup>15</sup> And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.

## Teaching

- \_\_\_\_\_ will rally everyone who does not follow God.
- Anyone who is not with Jesus will try to \_\_\_\_\_ God, but God will win.
- You are either going to be with \_\_\_\_\_ or with \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ will be judged—Christians and non-Christians
- Non-believers will be judged based on \_\_\_\_\_ deeds.
- Christians will be judged based on \_\_\_\_\_ deeds.

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## **Small Group Discussion:**

1. When does passing “judgment” feel good? When do we not want to be judged?
2. Think of a time when you got in trouble and the “judgment” wasn’t going your way. How would it feel if one of your friends/siblings decided to take the punishment for you?
3. Have you ever experienced an injustice—someone treating you unfairly or falsely accusing you? How did it make you feel?
  - » Do these experiences make you look forward to a day when everything will be set right?
4. We can either be on Jesus’ team, as people who believe in him, or we can oppose him by standing against him. How do you know if you are on Jesus’ team?

## Week 6: Eternity–Garden +

### Main Idea

Do you believe eternity with God is better than what you can obtain here on earth?

### Passage

1 Peter 1:3-4

<sup>3</sup> All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, <sup>4</sup> and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay.

### Teaching

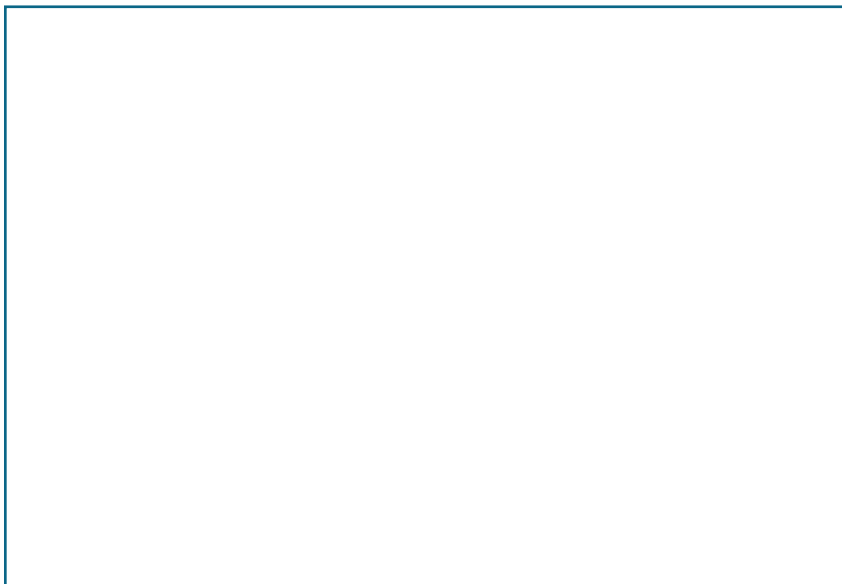
- Main Question: Do you believe that \_\_\_\_\_ and better than this world?
- This world cannot be perfect again because \_\_\_\_\_ continue to sin.
- There has to be something \_\_\_\_\_ than this world.
- \_\_\_\_\_: something given to someone after a death.
- The inheritance we will get from God if we have put our faith in Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_.
- The way we live our lives shows if we love this world \_\_\_\_\_ than we love God.

## Notes

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## Small Group Discussion:

1. It is tempting to think that things in this life can satisfy us forever, but our experience tells us this isn't true. Write or draw one thing that you wanted so badly it consumed all of your thoughts (Christmas gift, birthday gift, etc.).



- » How did you feel when you received it? How did you feel about it after a year? How do you feel about it now? Why did your feelings change?
2. Read 1 Peter 1: 3-4
    - » What is the only way we can attain this eternal hope and life in eternity?
    - » What steps do you need to take in light of this truth?
  3. Flip through your God and His Kingdom booklet. What are some of your main takeaways from this series? What did you learn about Jesus? How will that impact how you live your life moving forward?

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