



FIRM FOUNDATION

WHAT WE STAND ON
9 WEEK SERMON SERIES WORKBOOK

ABOUT ACAC

MISSION

Following Jesus in diverse community.

VISION

To be a Christ-centered community that bridges divides, embraces Biblical diversity, and expands God's kingdom by demonstrating the unifying power of Jesus' love in a polarized world. [John 17]

STRATEGY

We gather, grow, and go.

DNA MARKERS

- 1.** We are Spirit-led.
- 2.** We pursue God's presence and proclaim His truth.
- 3.** We love people where they are.
- 4.** We are a diverse community of faith.
- 5.** We strive to become more like Jesus.

Firm Foundation: What We Stand On A 9-Week Series from ACAC

²⁴“Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. ²⁵Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock.”

Matthew 7:24-25

You are holding this workbook because you belong to a community that believes what you think about God matters. Not just as a theological exercise, but as the very ground you stand on.

Over the next nine weeks, we are going to work through the core doctrines of the Christian faith together. We are doing this not to make you a better debater or to load you down with more information, but because the foundations beneath your faith are either solid or uncertain. And that difference shows up in everyday life: in moments of pressure, in seasons of doubt, in grief, and in the decisions we make.

Jesus told a story about two builders. Both heard the same words. Both of them built. But only one of them built on solid rock, and when the storm came, only one of them was left standing. The difference wasn’t passion. It wasn’t even sincerity. *It was a firm foundation.*

We live in a moment when the ground beneath people’s lives shifts constantly. The world will tell you that truth is personal, that faith is whatever you make of it, and that the things that matter most are the things that feel the most true right now. That approach may hold in good weather. But it will not hold when the storms of life come.

ACAC has stood for 132 years. Not because the people who have gathered here were extraordinary. Not because conditions were always favorable. But because the God this church was built around is faithful, His Word is true, and His people have kept coming back to the foundation.

That’s the invitation for you in this series. Not just to learn about the foundation, but to build on it. Week after week, truth after truth, to let what we believe become the ground beneath everything you do.

In a world that shifts, these truths don’t.

Let’s build together.



Pastor Alan Hannah, Lead Pastor ACAC

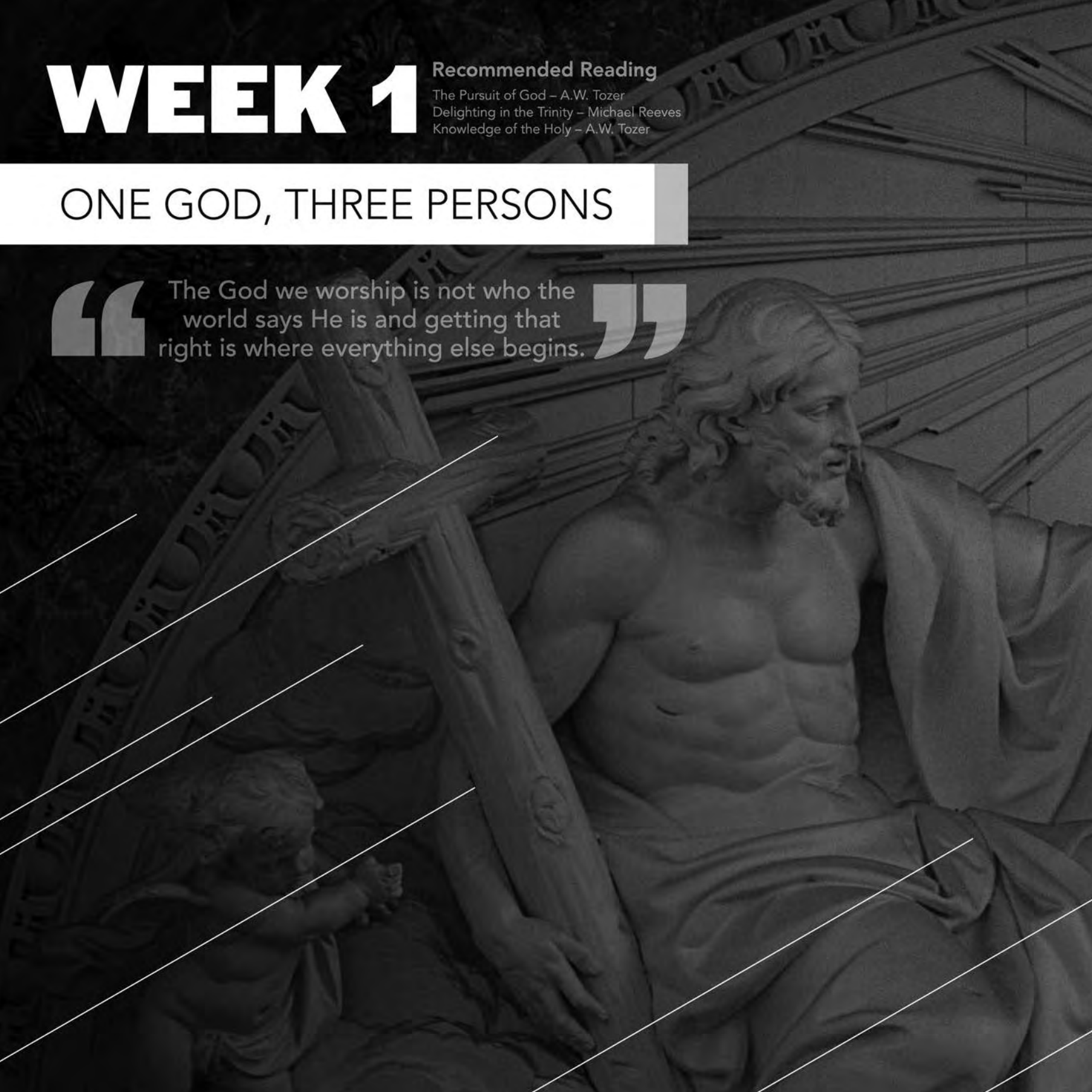
WEEK 1

Recommended Reading

The Pursuit of God – A.W. Tozer
Delighting in the Trinity – Michael Reeves
Knowledge of the Holy – A.W. Tozer

ONE GOD, THREE PERSONS

“ The God we worship is not who the world says He is and getting that right is where everything else begins. ”





WEEK 1: One God, Three Persons

Doctrine: The Trinity

Matthew 28:19

Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Deuteronomy 6:4

Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

RECOMMEND READING:

The Pursuit of God – A.W. Tozer

Delighting in the Trinity – Michael Reeves

Knowledge of the Holy – A.W. Tozer

The God we worship is not who the world says He is, and getting that right is where everything else begins.

There is one God. He is infinitely perfect and He has existed eternally as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — not as three separate gods, not as one God wearing three masks, but as three distinct persons in perfect, eternal unity. That is the God we worship. Understanding who He is isn't just where this series begins, it's the cornerstone of the entire foundation. Get this right and everything else you build on it will hold.

WEEK 2

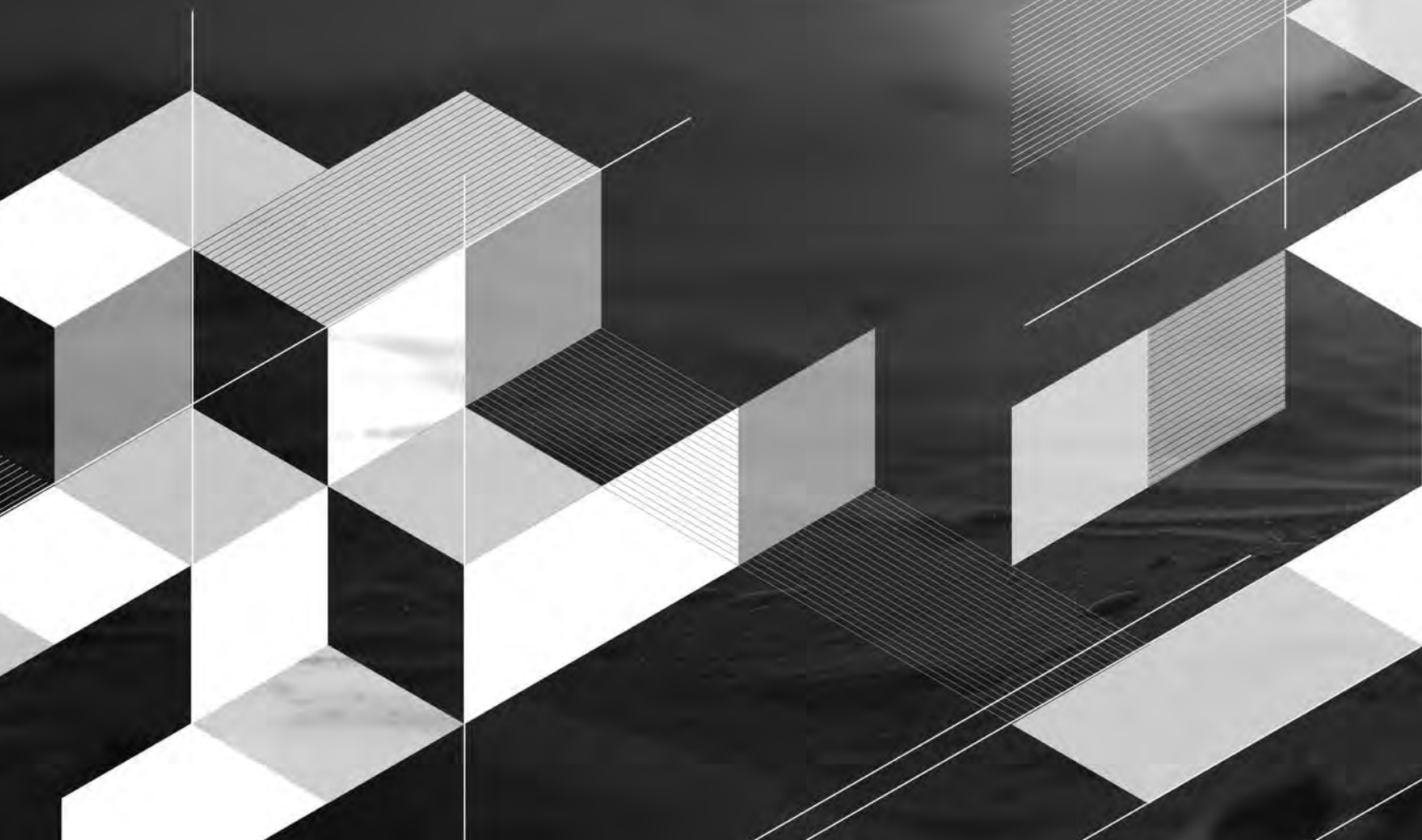
Recommended Reading

Name Above All Names – Alistair Begg & Sinclair Ferguson
Simply Jesus – N.T. Wright
The Cross – M Lloyd-Jones
The Forgotten Jesus – Robby Gallaty

THE GOD WHO BECAME ONE OF US



Jesus didn't watch from a distance. He stepped into our darkness so we could walk in His light and be called children of God.





WEEK 2: The God Who Became One of Us

Doctrine: The Person and Work of Christ

John 1:1-18

¹In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He existed in the beginning with God. ³God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. ⁴The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

⁶God sent a man, John the Baptist, ⁷to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. ⁸John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. ⁹The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. ¹¹He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. ¹²But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. ¹³They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

¹⁴So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

¹⁵John testified about him when he shouted to the crowds, "This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'Someone is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.'"

¹⁶From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is himself God, is near to the Father's heart. He has revealed God to us.

Colossians 1:15-20

¹⁵Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, ¹⁶for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. ¹⁷He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together.

¹⁸Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything. ¹⁹For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, ²⁰and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross.

Jesus didn't watch from a distance. He stepped into our darkness so we could walk in His light and be called children of God.

John 1 doesn't ease you into who Jesus is. It hits you with it from the first sentence. *The Word was God*. And then that same Word became flesh, *fully human, fully divine*, living among us. He didn't observe our brokenness from a distance. He entered into it. He stepped into the darkness, and the darkness could not overcome Him. That light was not a movement or a message; it was a person. And the offer He makes to everyone who receives Him is amazing. Not just forgiveness. Not just a better life. The right to be called a child of God. Not a subject. Not a servant. A child. That's the Good News.

WEEK TWO NOTES:

RECOMMEND READING:

Name Above All Names – Alistair Begg & Sinclair Ferguson

Simply Jesus – N.T. Wright

The Cross – M Lloyd-Jones

The Forgotten Jesus – Robby Gallaty

What is the Implication for Your Life?

Action Steps:

WEEK 3

Recommended Reading

Keep In Step With the Spirit – J. I. Packer
The Holy Spirit – A.B. Simpson
The Mystery of the Holy Spirit – R.C. Sproul

POWER AND PRESENCE WITHIN YOU



You are never without power,
the question is whether you're
living like it.





WEEK 3: The Holy Spirit

Power and Presence Within You

Doctrine: Holy Spirit

Romans 8:9-17

⁹But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.) ¹⁰And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God. ¹¹The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

¹²Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. ¹³For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the

deeds of your sinful nature, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

¹⁵So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. ¹⁷And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.

Ezekiel 36:26-27

²⁶And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. ²⁷And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.

You are never without power, the question is whether you're living like it.

The Holy Spirit isn't a feeling you chase or a force you try to access. He's a person, a divine person, who permanently lives inside every follower of Jesus. Not occasionally. Not when you've earned it. Permanently. That means you are never without power. The question is whether you're living like it.

WEEK 4

Recommended Reading

Understanding the Bible – John Stott
Scripture and the Authority of God – N.T. Wright
How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth – Gordon Fee & Douglas Stuart
Misreading Scripture With Western Eyes – E. Randolph Richards & Brandon J. O'Brien

THE FOUNDATION THAT HOLDS



The Bible isn't just a book you read, it's the Word that reads you.





WEEK 4: The Bible

The Foundation That Holds

Doctrine: Scripture

2 Timothy 3:15-17

¹⁵You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. ¹⁷God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

Psalms 119:105

Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.

RECOMMEND READING:

Understanding the Bible – John Stott

Scripture and the Authority of God – N.T. Wright

How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth – Gordon Fee & Douglas Stuart

Misreading Scripture With Western Eyes – E. Randolph Richards & Brandon J. O'Brien

The Bible isn't just a book you read, it's the Word that reads you.

The Bible isn't just ancient wisdom you consult when you need inspiration. It's not even simply a book of history. It is the living, God-breathed Word, inerrant as originally given, and it carries authority over every area of your life, whether you feel like it does or not. You don't get to decide which parts apply to you. It doesn't just give you answers, it reveals who you are and who you're becoming.

WEEK 5

Recommended Reading

The Normal Christian Life – Watchman Nee
Basic Christianity – John Stott
Mere Christianity – C.S. Lewis

BROKEN, BUT LOVED



You're more broken than you want to admit, and more loved than you can possibly know.





WEEK 5: Broken But Loved

Doctrine: Humanity, Sin, and Salvation

Romans 3:21-26

²¹But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. ²²We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

²³For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. ²⁴Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. ²⁵For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held

back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, ²⁶for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.

Genesis 3:6-7

⁶The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. ⁷At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.

**You're more broken than you want to admit,
and more loved than you can possibly know.**

You are not basically a good person who occasionally makes bad choices. You are someone made in the image of God who is deeply, genuinely broken by sin, and completely, relentlessly loved by the God who made you. You don't get to have the second part without being honest about the first. And that's exactly what makes grace so staggering. You didn't earn it. You couldn't. But He gave it anyway.

WEEK 6

Recommended Reading

The Deeply Formed Life – Rich Villodas

The Deeper Life – A.W. Tozer

Sacred Rhythms – Ruth Haley Barton

THE DEEPER LIFE



The Christian life isn't one filling and you're done, it's a daily coming back to the Spirit and saying, 'fill me again.'





WEEK 6: The Deeper Life

Doctrine: Sanctification and the Spirit-Filled Life

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

²³Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.

²⁴God will make this happen, for he who calls you is faithful.

Galatians 2:20

My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

RECOMMEND READING:

The Deeply Formed Life – Rich Villodas

The Deeper Life – A.W. Tozer

Sacred Rhythms – Ruth Haley Barton

The Christian life isn't one filling and you're done, it's a daily coming back to the Spirit and saying, "fill me again."

God doesn't save you and then leave you where He found you. Salvation isn't a transaction you completed, it's a transformation He began. He is not finished, and every day the Holy Spirit is at work in you, chipping away, refining, and making you more like Jesus. Your job isn't to perfect yourself. Your job is to stay surrendered while He does the work within.

WEEK 7

Recommended Reading

Healing – Francil MacNutt

HEALED BY THE KING



The same Jesus who restored the broken in the Gospels is the same Jesus you're coming to today. He hasn't changed.





WEEK 7: Healed by the King

Doctrine: Divine Healing

James 5:14-16

¹⁴Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven.

¹⁶Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

Matthew 9:35

Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages of that area, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness.

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

RECOMMEND READING:
Healing – Francil MacNutt

The same Jesus who restored the broken in the Gospels is the same Jesus you're coming to today. He hasn't changed.

Healing isn't a formula you follow or a faith level you achieve. It's a person you come to. Jesus healed because it's in His nature to restore what is broken. He did it in the Gospels, He did it in the early church, and He still does it today. That doesn't mean healing always comes the way we want it to or on the timeline we expect. But it does mean that when you bring your brokenness to Jesus, you are bringing it to the One who cares.

WEEK 8

Recommended Reading

Center Church – Tim Keller

Jesus and the Disinherited – Howard Thurman

Why Bother With Church? – Sam Allberry

THE BODY HE CHOSE [THE CHURCH]



The church isn't just where you go, it's part of who you are.





WEEK 8: The Body He Chose [The Church]

Doctrine: The Church and the Great Commission

Ephesians 1:22-23

²²God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. ²³And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.

Acts 2:42-47

⁴²All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

⁴³A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. ⁴⁴And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. ⁴⁵They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. ⁴⁶They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—⁴⁷all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

The church isn't just where you go, it's part of who you are.

The church is not a building you attend or a service you stream when it's convenient. It is the body of Christ, the people He chose to carry His presence, display His character, and take His message to the world. That mission isn't optional. It's the reason the church exists. You cannot fully follow Jesus in isolation. ACAC has been doing that together for 132 years, but we are just one small part of something much bigger, a global body of believers spanning every nation, language, and culture, all united under one King and one mission.

WEEK 9

Recommended Reading

Revelation for the Rest of Us – Scot McKnight

Three Views on the Millenium and Beyond – Darrell L. Bock & Stanley N. Gundry

THE KING IS COMING

“

You don't have to know when
He's coming back, you just have
to live like He is.

”





WEEK 9: The King is Coming

Doctrine: The Second Coming and Eternal Destiny

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. ¹²And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, ¹³while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. ¹⁴He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.

Revelation 21:3-5

³I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. ⁴He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."

⁵And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true."

RECOMMEND READING:

Revelation for the Rest of Us – Scot McKnight

Three Views on the Millenium and Beyond – Darrell L. Bock & Stanley N. Gundry

You don't have to know when He's coming back, you just have to live like He is.

Most people treat the Second Coming like a distant event that has little to do with everyday life. But the Bible doesn't present it that way. The return of Jesus is meant to be the most practical doctrine in your life. It purifies how you live. It clarifies what matters. It puts everything in its proper place. You don't have to have the timeline figured out. You just have to live like it's true.





Firm Foundation

Moving Forward

Over these past weeks, we've explored the core truths that shape the Christian faith: the foundations that believers have stood on for centuries.

We've talked about who God is, what Scripture is, how salvation works, and how God continues shaping our lives through His Spirit. These are not abstract doctrines or distant ideas; they are the bedrock beneath everything we believe and everything we build our lives upon.

Foundations often go unnoticed when life feels steady. But when pressure comes, when doubts rise, when circumstances shift, what lies beneath our faith is revealed with striking clarity.

This journal was never meant to be a finish line. It was meant to help you slow down, reflect, and begin building your faith more intentionally on that which is true.

KEEP BUILDING

One simple way to continue growing is to keep practicing what you've started here. Consider bringing a notebook or journal with you to worship: a place to write down Scripture, sermon insights, prayers, and all the ways that God is speaking to you.

Faith grows stronger when we return again and again to the truth of God's Word.

GO DEEPER

The foundations of faith are meant to support a lifelong journey of knowing God more deeply. You may sense an invitation to keep learning by studying Scripture, joining a small group, asking thoughtful questions, or exploring practices like prayer, reflection, and service.

To continue growing, visit www.acac.net/closer, where you'll find resources designed to help you take your next steps with God.

A FINAL ENCOURAGEMENT

Wherever you find yourself today, steady or searching, confident or still learning, remember this: Faith is not built in a single moment.

It's built day by day.

And when your life is built on Christ, the storms may come — but that **Firm Foundation** will hold.



“

May you walk forward with steady faith,
building your life on what is true, trusting
that – in every season – Christ is the firm
foundation beneath you.

”



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