ഗ



## The Basics of the Christian Faith

What does it mean to follow Jesus?

With teaching from

Alistanizes

## The Basics of the **Christian Faith**

DISCIPLESHIP COURSE

The Basics of the Christian Faith Copyright © 2023 by Truth For Life P. O. Box 398000 Cleveland, OH 44139

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from The Holy Bible, *English Standard Version.* Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



## Welcome

We're so glad you've chosen to explore some of the most foundational truths of Christianity. As with so many parts of the Christian life, we believe you will benefit most from this study when you do it with a friend or a small group and in conjunction with your local church. We encourage you to so if you are able!

By the end of this course, you'll have learned about the Trinity, the Bible, prayer, the sacraments, church, evangelism, and more. Ultimately, though, this study is not about mastering a series of topics; it's about discipleship-growing "in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18).

You're probably familiar with the word *disciple*, but what does it really mean to be a disciple or to make disciples like Jesus commanded (Matt. 28:19)? As you listen to the thirteen messages in this study and answer the corresponding questions, you'll discover what it looks like to be a committed follower-a disciple-of Jesus Christ.

#### HELPFUL TIPS FOR

## **Using This Guide**

These lessons will help you in your knowledge of Christian beliefs and doctrine and, by God's grace, encourage one another's faith. Each session includes three learning phases to complete independently before meeting in-person.

#### **Tips for Before You Begin**

- Consider having an informal meeting or conversation to talk about your •
  - 1. goals and expectations,
  - 2. current understanding of Christianity, and
  - 3. faith background.
- Familiarize yourself with the study's structure.
- Tap the + on the *The Basics of the Christian Faith* series page to add it to "My Library" for easy tracking and access on truthforlife.org or while using the Truth For Life mobile app.
- Do you prefer listening or reading—or both? All of the messages have both the audio and the transcripts available for free.
- Pray.

#### For Leaders



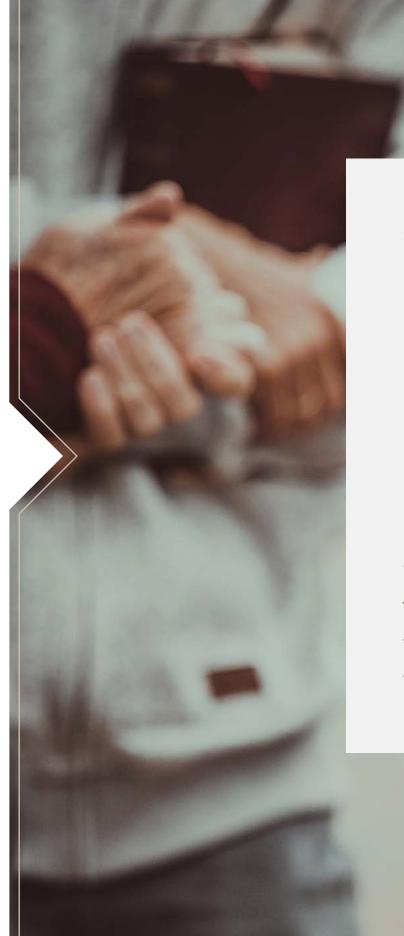
Scan for additional tips and an answer key.



## what you'll be Learning

We must endeavor to understand the first principles of Christian doctrine and to bring those principles to bear on every aspect of our lives, lest we be swept away.

ALISTAIR BEGG



01	How Can I Be Sa
02	Becoming a Chr
03	Believing
04	Why Bother wit
05	God and Man
06	The Authentic J
07	<u>The Holy Spirit</u>
08	<u>"All Prayer"</u>
09	Who or What Is
10	The Sacraments
11	Keeping His Co
12	<u>Vital Signs</u>
13	Personal Evang

aved?

<u>ristian</u>

th the Bible?

Jesus

the Church?

mmands

<u>gelist</u>





### **Three Learning Phases**

Each session in this study corresponds to a sermon from Alistair Begg and follows a three-part outline before concluding with a reflective Praise & Prayer section. Additional Resources are suggested for diving deeper into related content.



#### **Getting Started**

You'll begin by reading a key passage of Scripture and answering a few questions before listening to the lesson's message. When you meet, you should reread the passage together and be prepared to discuss your responses.



#### Listen & Learn

In this phase, you'll read or listen to the lesson's message. (A brief summary of each message is provided.) As you do so, you should take notes, fill in the blanks, read the definitions, and answer the corresponding questions. You might also want to use the additional space provided to take notes on key points you want to discuss.



#### **Going Deeper**

The questions in this phase are meant to help you fully process and apply the main ideas that were taught. You should be prepared to discuss your answers and other questions that you might have.

#### HOW TO

## **Use This Study**

This study is designed to pair independent listening to sermons by Alistair Begg with in-person discussion between you and a friend who will lead you through this study. You'll have the most success when you complete each of the three learning phases on your own then meet together to discuss your responses and ask questions. When you meet, you may want to spend additional time on particular sessions, revisit questions that came up in earlier meetings, or otherwise use the format in a flexible way to suit your study.

I F T ' S

#### $\boxed{5}$ - 10 mins.

#### $\boxed{30-40}$ mins.

#### $\boxed{10-15}$ mins.

#### SESSION

## 01 How Can I Be Saved?

"

There is only one way to be saved, and that is by doing two things: by turning *from* my sin and turning *to* Christ as the Savior from the sin that I admit.

ALISTAIR BEGG





SESSION 01 How Can I Be Saved?

## Getting Started

What do you think of when you hear the word salvation? 01.

What does it mean for Jesus to be someone's Savior? 02.



#### **Read Ephesians 2:1–10 and answer the questions below.**

01. What do you learn about mankind from verses 1–3?

What are salvation's source and purpose according to verses 4-7? 02.

According to verses 8–10, how does God save us? 03.



### 

#### SESSION 01 How Can I Be Saved?

## Listen & Learn

Conditions of entry are important—especially concerning the kingdom of heaven. The Bible is clear about the problem of humanity in our natural state: we are dead, blind, and enslaved due to sin. The solution God offers is salvation through Jesus Christ. But how can we be saved? The Bible teaches that salvation comes from turning away from sin toward Christ as Savior.

Salvation is an essential prerequisite to discipleship. Before we can follow Jesus, we must know Him as our Savior. The purpose of this lesson is to help you grasp how God works to bring His people to salvation.

#### Fill in the Blank

01. "Salvation is not \_\_\_\_\_ works, but it is \_\_\_\_\_ works."

02. "There is only one way to be saved, and that is by doing two things: by turning from

\_\_ \_\_\_\_ and turning to \_\_\_\_\_\_."

03. "There are two places that sin is punished: sin is punished in \_\_\_\_\_\_, and sin is punished

at \_\_\_\_\_\_. And the message of the Gospel is '\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus Christ today

as your \_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_, or face Him then as your rightful \_\_\_\_\_\_."

#### **Key Terms**

#### repentance

the act of turning *from sin* with godly remorse and to *God* out of love and reverence for Him

#### salvation

the reality of being rescued from sin's penalty upon one's genuine profession of faith, from sin's power through the enabling of God's Spirit, and from sin's presence upon entering Christ's company

#### **Short Answer**

How does Alistair describe the meaning of the Greek word for *repentance*? 01.

Alistair asks, "If I promise simply to do better, won't God save me?" What is the biblical 02. answer to that question?

#### Notes

Additional notes on page 18





SESSION 01 How Can I Be Saved?

## Going Deeper

In the sermon, Alistair asks, "Have you ever repented? Have you ever reached a 01. day in your life where the claims of Christ came to you with such clarity that you said, 'This is something I must do; I'm on the wrong road'?" If your answer is "Yes," how has your life since changed? If "No," what is holding you back?

Alistair also asks, "If you have understood the claims of Christ, if you have 02. understood the message, what prevents you, right now, today, from bowing your head and, in your own silent prayer to Christ, acknowledging that you need Him, turning your life over to Him, and walking out in friendship with Him?" Whether you have believed in Jesus for five minutes or for many years, take a moment to pause and acknowledge your constant need of Him.

Who in your life needs to hear this message of salvation? Write down at least one 03. name and a brief prayer for that individual.

Notes Continued...

#### SESSION 01 How Can I Be Saved?

### **Praise & Prayer**

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound— That saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved; How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed!

> "Amazing Grace" John Newton

Lord Jesus Christ, I have long been so foolish. Give me Your wisdom to see and to follow Your truth. I am so full of guilt and have no peace apart from You, but now I see that You have died to bring forgiveness and the assurance of pardon. I trust You to be my Savior, and by Your grace, I turn away from my sin. Lord, apart from You I am weak and ruled by sin. Give me Your power, and rule in my heart. Set me free, and take charge of my whole life.

Amen

### How Can I Be Saved?

### **Additional Resources**



#### **Online Resources**

Sermons, articles, and devotions can be found by scanning the QR code or by visiting tfl.org/christian-faith-list.

#### Sermons by Alistair

- "The Nature and Necessity of Repentance"
- "Divine Righteousness Applied"

#### **Articles & Devotions**

- "What Is the Gospel?"
- "To the Almost Christian"
- "Now Is the Time"

#### **Recommended Books**

- *Basic Christianity* by John Stott
- What Is the Gospel? by Greg Gilbert

THE BASICS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH





#### SESSION

## 02 Becoming a Christian

#### "

It is only when we recognize that Jesus died in our place, taking our sin, that we can then make sense of His death as an example of self-sacrificial love.

ALISTAIR BEGG







SESSION 02 Becoming a Christian

## Getting Started

In your own words, explain how someone becomes a Christian. 01.

What Bible verses support your answer to the previous question? 02.



#### **Read Luke 5:12–13 and answer the questions below.**

What do you learn about the character and identity of Jesus from these verses? 01.

How is the leper a model of faith? 02.





#### **Listen to "Becoming a Christian"** Scan the QR code or visit tfl.org/christian-faith

#### SESSION 02 Becoming a Christian

## Listen & Learn

When Jesus visited a town in Galilee, He healed a man hopelessly consumed by leprosy with His compassionate touch. Like leprosy, sin corrupts the souls of men and women completely, making us alienated from God, hopeless to save ourselves, and in desperate need of rescue. But there is hope! Jesus died for sin to meet our greatest need. In response, we are called to cast ourselves on His mercy.

As disciples of Christ, we must also know how to help others become Christians. The purpose of this lesson is to clarify how one begins new life as a believer so that you may be able to clearly articulate to others how they might do so themselves.

#### Fill in the Blank

01. "Jesus makes it clear by the time He steps on the stage of history, referencing the historicity

of Adam and Eve, that the death that entered into the world was the \_\_\_\_\_\_

death, closing down the \_\_\_\_\_\_ between a holy God and His creation, bringing

\_\_\_\_\_ into that picture, bringing bondage into people's lives, bringing

conflict into their circumstances."

02. "Every one of us is \_\_\_\_\_\_ with an inherent \_\_\_\_\_\_ to sin, every one of us a

\_\_\_\_\_ in the same sinking ship with everybody else. And every day we are

confronted by the ravaging nature of our condition."

03. "Sin is not an \_\_\_\_\_ problem; it is a \_\_\_\_\_ problem."

#### Key Terms

#### alienation

the state and experience of being separated and estranged

#### leprosy

in biblical times, a word that described various skin ailments that typically resulted in the affected individual's alienation from society and its norms

#### **Short Answer**

01. How is leprosy a picture of our sinful condition?

02. What are the three elements of saving faith?

#### Notes

Additional notes on page 28

PAGE 25



SESSION 02 **Becoming a Christian** 

## Going Deeper

What are some reasons that you might find it difficult to believe not only that Jesus 01. is compassionate but also that He actually desires to cleanse you from your sin?

If you want to know whether the miracle of salvation has occurred in your life, 02. Alistair recommends that you consider these questions: Are you beginning to see that you've done wrong and that God is rightly angry with you? Are you beginning to sense that Jesus has been sent by God the Father to bring you forgiveness? How has God's offer of salvation changed your life?



**Notes Continued...** 

#### SESSION 02 **Becoming a Christian**

### **Praise & Prayer**

And can it be that I should gain An interest in the Savior's blood? Died He for me, who caused His pain? For me, who Him to death pursued? Amazing love! How can it be That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

> "And Can It Be That I Should Gain?" Charles Wesley

O Lord, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed. but through You I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank You for paying my debt, bearing my punishment, and offering me forgiveness. Help me to turn from my sin today and every day, always humbly acknowledging that You are my Savior and living for Your glory.

Amen

#### **Becoming a Christian**

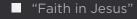
### **Additional Resources**



#### **Online Resources**

Sermons, articles, and devotions can be found by scanning the QR code or by visiting tfl.org/christian-faith-list.

#### Sermons by Alistair



"True Freedom"

#### **Articles & Devotions**

- "The New and Better Adam"
- "What Does the Bible Teach about Becoming a Christian?"
- "What Is True Faith?"

#### **Recommended Books**

- *Mere Christianity* by C. S. Lewis
- *The Christian Life* by Sinclair B. Ferguson

PAGE 29

#### SESSION

## **O**3 Believing

Charles and

### "

Only when God is pleased to take the initiative and reveal Himself may we know just what it is and why it is we believe. That happens as a result of God using His Word and as a result of God working by His Spirit.

ALISTAIR BEGG







SESSION 03

Believing

## Getting Started

How would you define the word *doctrine*? What do you think of when you hear or 01. read that word?

How do Christians know what they are supposed to believe? 02.



**Read Colossians 1:21–23 and answer the questions below.** 

01. According to these verses, how are we reconciled to God and for what purpose?

What does Paul say we must do to remain "holy and blameless and above reproach" 02. before God?





### Listen to "Believing"

#### SESSION 03 **Believing**

## Listen & Learn

Throughout the centuries, the church has consistently maintained that believers should be firmly grounded in the essentials of the faith. In this message, Alistair draws on both history and Scripture to emphasize the necessity for every Christian to know what they believe and why they believe it. Understanding basic Christian doctrine and applying these principles to every aspect of our lives is crucial for discerning what's right and wrong and for passing on the truth to future generations.

If you want to persevere in the faith as a Christian, basic Christian beliefs must be deeply rooted in your heart. This lesson will help you understand the importance of knowing essential Christian beliefs for yourself so that you will remain faithful to Christ and encourage others to remain faithful to Him as well.

#### Fill in the Blank

**01.** "It is impossible to go through the Letters without finding that again and again the

apostles are urging upon their readers the absolute necessity of knowing \_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

they believe."

02. "\_\_\_\_\_\_ is not the key in learning Christian doctrine. \_\_\_\_\_\_ is the key in

learning Christian doctrine."

#### **Key Terms**

#### general revelation

the universal truths in the world that are sufficient to convince men and women of God's existence and to leave them "without excuse" as it relates to disobedience toward Him (see Rom. 1:18-20)

#### special revelation

the miraculous ways in which God has chosen to reveal Himself to men and women, e.g., the written Word (the Bible) and the incarnate Word (Jesus)

#### **Short Answer**

How is the Bible's veracity—its truthfulness—*ultimately* confirmed for us? 01.

List at least five essential doctrines that Alistair identifies. 02.

#### **Notes**

Additional notes on page 38

PAGE 35



SESSION 03 Believing

## Going Deeper

Why is it important to know what you believe and why you believe it? 01.

In Alistair's list of essential doctrines, which is the hardest for you to grasp? 02. Which is the easiest? Why?

Alistair mentions that the church sows the seeds of its own destruction when it 03. gets distracted by numbers and clever methodologies for reaching unbelievers. Why is this so?



Notes Continued...

#### SESSION 03

Believing

### **Praise & Prayer**

Be Thou my wisdom And Thou my true word, l ever with Thee And Thou with me, Lord, Thou my great Father, I Thy true son, Thou in me dwelling And I with Thee one.

"Be Thou My Vision"

 ${\it F}$ ather, thank You that You have given me the Bible. Thank You that You've given the Holy Spirit to illumine the printed page to me and sensitize my heart to its truth. Thank You that You've given me intellect so that I may be able think rationally about things. Help me to become a man or woman of the Book. You have exalted above all things Your name and Your Word.

Lord Jesus, every other name is subservient to Yours. Every other shepherd points to You, the Great Shepherd. Every teacher is a learner from You, Christ, the great Teacher of Your people. It is in You, Lord Jesus Christ alone, that all my hope is found. You are everything, Jesus. May I live out that reality in the days of this coming week. For I pray in Your precious name.

twen

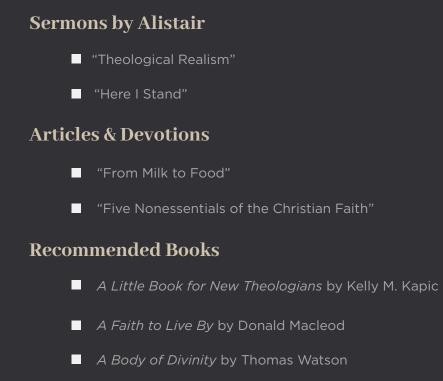
Believing

### **Additional Resources**



#### **Online Resources**

Sermons, articles, and devotions can be found by scanning the QR code or by visiting tfl.org/christian-faith-list.



PAGE 39

#### SESSION

## 04 Why Bother with the Bible?

"

The Bible is a book like no other book, inasmuch as it is a book that understands us.

ALISTAIR BEGG



SESSION 03 Believing

## Getting Started

What are some facts that you know about the Bible? 01.

What is something regarding Scripture you'd like to learn more about? 02.



#### **Read 2** Timothy 3:14–17 and answer the questions below.

01. Where does Scripture find its origin according to these verses?

What is Scripture useful for, and what does this indicate about its importance in the 02. **Christian life?** 



Listen to "Why Bother with the Bible?"

#### SESSION 04 Why Bother with the Bible?

## Listen & Learn

It's the best-selling book of all time: written over thousands of years by dozens of different writers, the Bible is a timeless and remarkable piece of historic literature. Is that all the Bible is, though—a classic book? Why bother with it? In answer to this question, Alistair examines 2 Timothy, teaching us that the Bible is central to all we do as Christians because it is the means through which God speaks to us.

There is no such thing as a growing Christian who does not have a relationship with God through His Word. The purpose of this lesson is to help you learn the importance of Scripture and how to read and study it for yourself so that you may continue to grow as a disciple of Jesus.

#### Fill in the Blank

01. "There is a part which in the table of contents is called the \_\_\_\_\_\_, which

goes from Genesis to Malachi, and then there is the \_\_\_\_\_, which goes from

Matthew through to Revelation."

02. The Bible is "\_\_\_\_\_ books written in a variety of languages, mainly in \_\_\_\_\_

and \_\_\_\_\_, over a period of more than a thousand years, originating in places as far apart

as Babylon and Rome, and penned by as many as \_\_\_\_\_ different individuals."

03. In the Old Testament, Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_; in the Gospels, He is \_\_\_\_\_; in the

Acts of the Apostles, He is \_\_\_\_\_; in the Epistles, He is \_\_\_\_\_; and in the

book of Revelation, He is \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **Key Term**

#### dual authorship

the idea that the Scriptures were written (or spoken) by both God and man. As Peter reminds his readers. "no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21).

#### **Short Answer**

01. What does Alistair say is the purpose of the Bible?

#### List the principles of biblical interpretation mentioned in the sermon. 02.

#### Notes

Additional notes on page 48

PAGE 45



SESSION 04 Why Bother with the Bible?

## Going Deeper

What does it mean that the Scriptures are God-breathed? 01.

What metaphor does the apostle Peter use to describe God's activity in the process 02. of Scripture being written by human authors? What does this metaphor teach you about the nature of the Bible?



**Notes Continued...** 

#### SESSION 04 Why Bother with the Bible?

### Praise & Prayer

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, *Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!* What more can He say than to you He hath said, You who unto Jesus for refuge have fled?

"How Firm a Foundation"

O God. thank You that You have spoken, and as a result of that, I am enabled by Your grace to respond. Thank You for the Bible—that it is a lamp that shines on my feet, a light that opens up my path. Shine the light of Your Word into my life, so that in understanding its purpose—to make me wise to salvation—I might then be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Why Bother with the Bible?

### **Additional Resources**



#### **Online Resources**

Sermons, articles, and devotions can be found by scanning the QR code or by visiting tfl.org/christian-faith-list.

#### Sermons by Alistair

- "The Bible: An Overview"
- "Why Bother with the Bible? Part Two"
- "Why Bother with the Bible? Part Three"

#### **Articles & Devotions**

- "The Doctrine of the Scripture"
  - How Can We Understand It?"

#### **Recommended Books**

- The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible by B. B. Warfield
- The Way of Life by Charles Hodge

"Three Questions about the Bible: What Is It? Who Wrote It?"

#### SESSION

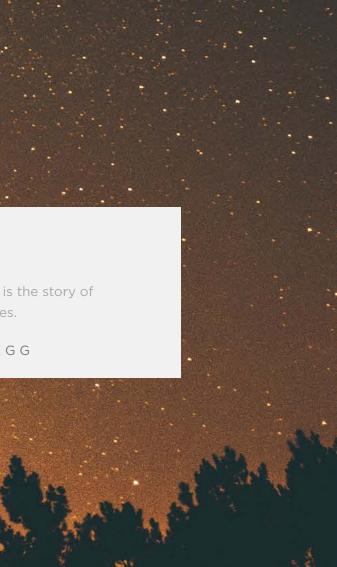
## 05 God and Man



The whole story of the Bible is the story of the God who cares.

ALISTAIR BEGG







SESSION 05 God and Man

## Getting Started

Imagine that someone who has never heard of God asks you to describe Him. 01. How would you do so?

What are some traits that set humanity apart from the rest of God's creation? 02.



#### **Read Psalm 8:1–9 and answer the questions below.**

01. Why does David seem surprised that God is mindful of mankind?

According to this psalm, what roles has God given to various parts of His creation? 02.





#### SESSION 05 God and Man

## Listen & Learn

Who is God? Psalm 8 proclaims that He is the Lord, the ruler of all things who created mankind in His image. Our inherent dignity, however, has been tarnished by sin. Contrasting God's greatness with humanity's frailty, Alistair demonstrates the immense care for us that God expressed through the death of His Son, Jesus. It is this God alone who reaches out to us, answering the deepest questions of our souls.

Unless we first understand God's identity, we will never make sense of our own. When we understand who God is and who we are in relation to Him, we will embrace God's design for our life all the more eagerly.

#### Fill in the Blank

**01.** "If we ask the question 'Who, then, is this God?' the first answer is that He is \_\_\_\_\_."

02. "The story of Christianity is that the \_\_\_\_\_\_ of the universe has stepped down

into time. And indeed, He has done so because He \_\_\_\_\_."

#### **Key Terms**

#### human depravity

the doctrine that there is no area of our lives that is unaffected by sin, which affects our wills, minds, bodies, emotions, behavior, and more

#### the image of God (imago Dei)

humanity's nature insofar as we are made to resemble God, unlike the rest of creation

#### **Short Answer**

- What is the source of the dignity that humans possess? 01.
- What are humanity's two characteristic marks according to Scripture? 02.

- What does Scripture teach us about our relationship to God? 03.
- What is the great hope for those who have been reconciled to God? 04.

#### **Notes**

Additional notes on page 58

PAGE 55



SESSION 05 God and Man

## Going Deeper

What did you learn about God in this sermon? How do these truths about God help 01. you to think rightly about yourself?

All people have dignity because they are created in the image of God, and at 02. the same time, all people are sinners because of the fall. How should these two characteristics of humanity influence the way that you think about and relate to other people?



Notes Continued...

#### SESSION 05

God and Man

### **Praise & Prayer**

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father; There is no shadow of turning with Thee. Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not; As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide, Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

> "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" Thomans O. Chisholm

Father, thank You for the Bible. Thank You that You are the King, the Creator. But You're not a Creator that is far away and removed from us. You're a Creator who has come to us in the person of Your Son. You are the one who cares enough to give Him up freely for us all, in order that as we trust in Him and rest in Him we might find ourselves bowing down before You, declaring Your majesty, and living in the light of Your grace. May it be so. For Jesus' sake I ask it.



God and Man

### **Additional Resources**



#### **Online Resources**

Sermons, articles, and devotions can be found by scanning the QR code or by visiting tfl.org/christian-faith-list.

#### Sermons by Alistair

- God's Basic Design"
- "Knowing God"

#### **Articles & Devotions**

- "The Ultimate Reality"
- "A God-Given Burden"

#### **Recommended Books**

- The Existence and Attributes of God by Stephen Charnock
- *Created in God's Image* by Anthony A. Hoekema

"Behold Your God: Creator, Counselor, Controller, and Comforter"

# of the session of the

"

It is only in light of the fact of Jesus' divinity that we can understand His humanity.

ALISTAIR BEGG





SESSION 06 The Authentic Jesus

## Getting Started

What are the first five words that come to mind when you think about Jesus? 01.

How might you explain who Jesus is to someone who has never heard of Him? 02.



#### **Read Matthew 16:13–20 and answer the questions below.**

01. What do these verses teach us about Jesus' identity?

How was Peter able to correctly answer Jesus' question? 02.



### Listen to "The Authentic Jesus"

#### SESSION 06 The Authentic Jesus

## Listen & Learn

Who is Jesus? Since His incarnation, people have confused and disparaged the identity of the Son of God. Alistair teaches who Jesus is according to the Bible, emphasizing His true nature as fully human and fully God. These two qualities exist without conflict or division and affirm His authority over life and death. In a world full of misguided notions about the identity of Jesus, it is only by looking to Scripture that we can understand the truth about Him.

A right understanding of Jesus' nature is not only necessary for our own salvation but also essential to our witness to others. The purpose of this lesson is to help you understand both the divine and human nature of Jesus.

#### Fill in the Blank

01. "Jesus, while true \_\_\_\_\_, is also true \_\_\_\_\_."

02. "In Christ, \_\_\_\_\_ natures exist 'without \_\_\_\_\_, without \_\_\_\_\_, without

\_' and 'without \_\_\_\_\_\_.'"

#### **Key Terms**

#### docetism

a heresy, or false teaching, that denies Jesus' humanity, claiming that because He is fully divine, He only *seemed* human (from the Greek word *dokein*, meaning "to appear")

#### Arianism

a heresy that denies the deity of Jesus, instead claiming that He was created by God the Father

#### **Short Answer**

What does Alistair say Jesus' birth was like, aside from His supernatural conception? 01.

What happens when we try to lessen Jesus' humanity in an effort to emphasize 02. His divinity?

Notes

Additional notes on page 68

PAGE 65



SESSION 06 The Authentic Jesus

## Going Deeper

In what ways is the true humanity of Jesus a comfort for the Christian? Why is it 01. essential that we uphold this doctrine?

How would you respond to someone who says that Jesus is not God because the 02. New Testament doesn't say that He is God?

Revisit your answer to question 2 in Getting Started. Is there anything you 03. would change?



**Notes Continued...** 

#### SESSION 06 The Authentic Jesus

### **Praise & Prayer**

Let earth and heaven combine, Angels and men agree, To praise, in songs divine, The incarnate Deity, Our God contracted to a span, Incomprehensibly made man.

"Let Earth and Heaven Combine" Charles Wesley

 $M_{
m y}$  God and Father, thank You that You have not left us to ourselves to wander around in the wilderness of our collapsing communities but that you have come to seek us out, a Shepherd looking for lost sheep, a Savior coming to forgive and to cleanse, and a King coming to reign. Thank You for loving us so much. Thank You that the story of Your kingdom does not wind down to a sorry conclusion but rather that You reign forever, and in Christ You have invited us to reign with You.



The Authentic Jesus

### **Additional Resources**



#### **Online Resources**

Sermons, articles, and devotions can be found by scanning the QR code or by visiting tfl.org/christian-faith-list.

Sermons by Alistair	
•	To Know Christ
	Who Is Jesus?
Articles & Devotions	
•	"Jesus Christ: Humble Serv
•	"The Pre-Existent Word"
-	"The Oldest Christian Conf
<b>Recommended Books</b>	
	The Person and Work of Ch

- The Incomparable Christ by John Stott



ant'

nrist by B. B. Warfield

Name above All Names by Alistair Begg and Sinclair B. Ferguson

#### SESSION

## 07 The Holy Spirit

Grander R. Balland Mr. S.

#### "

The reason that each of us is able to acknowledge the presence of the risen Christ with us is because of the ministry of God the Spirit.

ALISTAIR BEGG







SESSION 07 The Holy Spirit

# Getting Started

What are the first five words that come to mind when you think about the Holy Spirit? 01.

What questions do you have about the Holy Spirit? 02.



#### **Read John 16:8–15 and answer the questions below.**

According to Jesus, what would the Holy Spirit do to the world when He would come? 01.

What did Jesus promise that the Holy Spirit would do for His followers? 02.



### Listen to "The Holy Spirit"



#### SESSION 07 The Holy Spirit

## Listen & Learn

As the time of His crucifixion drew near, Jesus explained to His disciples why He had to depart and promised to send a Helper: the Holy Spirit. Contrary to some misunderstandings, this Holy Spirit is no mere force; He is a person who has been active since creation. Walking us through the activity of the third person of the Trinity, Alistair explains that it is the work of God's Spirit poured out on God's people that conforms us to the image of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Unless you know the important role that the Holy Spirit plays in the Christian life, you will labor and strive to bear spiritual fruit in vain. The purpose of this lesson is to help you to understand the Holy Spirit's role in the life of the believer so that you will be able to glorify God through His powerful work in your life.

#### Fill in the Blank

01. "It is impossible to explain the life of \_\_\_\_\_\_ apart from His \_\_\_\_\_\_ with

the other members of the \_\_\_\_\_."

**02.** "What the Father \_\_\_\_\_\_ the Son comes to procure and to provide by way of \_\_\_\_\_\_;

and what the Son provides by way of \_\_\_\_\_\_ the Holy Spirit then comes to \_\_\_\_\_ to the

lives of those who believe."

#### **Key Terms**

#### pneumatology the study of the Holy Spirit

#### modalism

a heresy claiming that there is one God who appears in three modes: sometimes as the Father, sometimes as the Son, and sometimes as the Spirit

#### **Short Answer**

What event recorded in the Bible fulfilled Jesus' promise in John 16? (See Acts 2.) 01.

What is the Holy Spirit's role in creation? 02.

#### Notes

Additional notes on page 78





SESSION 07 The Holy Spirit

# Going Deeper

Many errors arise in the church and in Christian living because the Holy Spirit and 01. His work are misunderstood. What truths about the Holy Spirit will help you to discern whether a "work of the Spirit" is authentic?

It is right for Christians to emphasize the importance of sound theology and 02. the need to live by biblical principles-but these alone do not guarantee that Christ will be glorified. Why are these good things insufficient apart from the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit?

How can you become more dependent upon the Holy Spirit in your own life and service? 03.



#### SESSION 07 **The Holy Spirit**

## **Praise & Prayer**

Spirit of God, who dwells within my heart, Wean it from sin, through all its pulses move. Stoop to my weakness, mighty as You are, And make me love You as I ought to love.

Teach me to love You as Your angels love, One holy passion filling all my frame: The fullness of the heaven-descended Dove; My heart an altar, and Your love the flame.

> "Spirit of God, **Descend upon My Heart"** George Croly

God, thank You that you have poured out Your Spirit in these last days. Thank You that in Christ all believers have been baptized into one Spirit. And yet I realize how easy it is to grieve the Spirit, to quench His work by my pride, by my disobedience, by my toleration of jealousy and animosity, by my unkind thoughts and bitter words.

In the same way as I often need to go to those whom I love most and say, "I never should have done that, and I am sorry," so I need to come to You, Holy Spirit, and say the same. Please pick me up in Your embrace. Fill me so that Christ may be increasingly precious to me and so that I may be increasingly conformed to His image.

Come and meet with me, Lord. Come and pour out Your Spirit and, as Habakkuk prayed, "revive Your work in the midst of the years."<sup>1</sup> I pray this in Jesus' name.

men

## The Holy Spirit

## **Additional Resources**



#### **Online Resources**

Sermons, articles, and devotions can be found by scanning the QR code or by visiting tfl.org/christian-faith-list.

#### Sermons by Alistair

- "The Indwelling Spirit"
- "The Age of fthe Spirit"

#### **Articles & Devotions**

- "Who Is the Holy Spirit?"
- "The Spirit's Power"
- "We Need You"

#### **Recommended Books**

- The Holy Spirit by Sinclair B. Ferguson
- Who on Earth Is the Holy Spirit? by Tim Chester
- *Keep in Step with the Spirit* by J. I. Packer





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Habakkuk 3:2 (NASB).

# **08** "All Prayer"

SESSION

### "

Do you realize what an amazing privilege that is, that you are able to go to the living God, the creator of the ends of the earth, and seek Him on behalf of a brother or a sister?

ALISTAIR BEGG







SESSION 08 "All Prayer"

# Getting Started

How would you define prayer for someone who is not a Christian? 01.

Are you satisfied with your prayer life? If not, in what ways would you like to see growth? 02.



#### **Read Ephesians 6:16–18 and answer the questions below.**

What do you think it means to pray "in the Spirit"? 01.

Why do you think Paul encourages us to pray with all perseverance? 02.



### Listen to "All Prayer"



#### SESSION 08 "All Prayer"

## Listen & Learn

Christians know that prayer is essential, but we often struggle with knowing how to pray best. As Paul instructed the Ephesians in wielding the spiritual weapon of prayer, he both exemplified and explained how to pray, when to pray, and what to pray for. Walking us through Paul's imperatives on prayer,

Alistair helps us understand what it means to pray continually, varyingly, and perseveringly for all our brothers and sisters in Christ with God-centered perspective and trust.

Through prayer, we praise and thank God, confess our sins to Him, and express our dependence upon Him as we seek His help in matters both great and small. This session provides instruction regarding prayer so that you will know how to pray and be able to teach other Christians how to pray effectively.

#### Fill in the Blank

01. "This call to 'all prayer' is an expression of our \_\_\_\_\_\_ upon God. It's not

\_\_\_\_\_; it is \_\_\_\_\_\_, because actually, it is impossible for us to enjoy an

intimate relationship with God without it."

02. "Learning to pray \_\_\_\_\_\_ by the Holy Spirit and \_\_\_\_\_\_ by the Scriptures

will inevitably focus our eyes on the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of God and the

of the church."

#### **Key Terms**

#### ACTS

a common acrostic prayer model that encourages prayers of adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication

#### **Short Answer**

- 01. What does it mean to pray with adoration?
- What does it mean to pray with confession? 02.

- What does it mean to pray with thanksgiving? 03.
- 04. What does it mean to pray with supplication?

#### Notes

Additional notes on page 88

PAGE 85



SESSION 08 "All Prayer"

# Going Deeper

Why is it important to avoid turning prayer into a list of requests for God? How 01. might you guard against this going forward?



What truths about God encourage you to persevere in prayer? 02.

#### SESSION 08 "All Prayer"

### **Praise & Prayer**

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire, Expressed in thought or word, The burning of a hidden fire, A longing for the Lord.

Prayer is the secret battleground Where victories are won; By prayer the will of God is found And work for Him begun.

> "Prayer Is the Soul's Sincere Desire" James Montgomery

 $\ddot{}O$ ur Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." (Matt. 6:9-13)

Amen

"All Prayer"

## **Additional Resources**



#### **Online Resources**

Sermons, articles, and devotions can be found by scanning the QR code or by visiting tfl.org/christian-faith-list.

#### Sermons by Alistair

- A Study in Luke, vol. 7: When You Pray, Say...
- "Asking God for Wisdom"

#### **Articles & Devotions**

- "How to Approach God in Prayer"
- "Praying at All Times"
- "God Hears Our Cries"

#### **Recommended Books**

- *Practical Prayer* by Derek Prime
- *Praying the Bible* by Donald S. Whitney
- *Pray Big* by Alistair Begg



PAGE 89

## 09 Who or What Is the Church?

There would be no such thing as 'the church' were it not for the fact that God from all of eternity planned

ALISTAIR BEGG

"

to have a people that are His very own.



SESSION 09 Who or What Is the Church?

# Getting Started

What are some things-either good or bad-that come to mind when you think about 01. the church?

How are you involved in the church? 02.



#### **Read Ephesians 2:19–22 and answer the questions below.**

According to Paul, what is the foundation of the church? 01.

What imagery does Paul use to describe the church? What does this teach you about 02. the church?







## Listen to "Who or What Is the Church?"

#### SESSION 09 Who or What Is the Church?

## Listen & Learn

Does the church have any relevance for the twentyfirst century? By explaining the divine origins of the church, the truth about membership in the church, and how the Bible defines the church, Alistair helps us answer this question. Jesus Christ is the foundation of the church, and this one truth forms the cornerstone for all we believe about it.

God has entrusted the task of discipleship to the local church. Therefore, it is very important for every Christian to understand God's design for the local church and its place in the Christian life. The aim of this session is to help you grow in your understanding of the local church so that you will be increasingly devoted to it.

#### **Key Terms**

#### the local church

a local gathering of believers that meets regularly and follows the pattern set forth by the early church (see Acts 2:42-47)

#### the universal church

also sometimes called the catholic (with a small c) church; the body of all believers around the world

#### the visible church

the church as we see it (i.e., those who are part of an identifiable church entity as a result of external gatherings, religious interest, heritage, baptism, family tradition, etc.)

#### the invisible church

the church as God sees it (i.e., all believers, past, present, and future)

03. "The real church is clearly	, com
been included in	_, scattered throughout _
places."	

#### **Short Answer**

01. What does Alistair teach about the church's divine origin?

#### Notes

#### Fill in the Blank

01. "The church is not a \_\_\_\_\_\_ invention; it is a \_\_\_\_\_\_ institution."

02. "Membership in the church is not a matter of \_\_\_\_\_\_ attachment but of

union."

prising \_\_\_\_\_ of every age who have \_\_\_\_\_ of the world in \_\_\_\_\_\_ kinds of

Additional notes on page 98





SESSION 09 Who or What Is the Church?

# Going Deeper

If someone asks you how to become a part of the church, how should you answer? 01.

While we are saved individually because of our personal union with the Lord Jesus 02. Christ, the Christian life is never meant to be only a matter of personal experience. It also entails fellowship with other believers. Why is important to view the Christian life in terms of corporate commitment and not only in terms of private experience?



#### SESSION 09 Who or What Is the Church?

### **Praise & Prayer**

The church's one foundation Is Jesus Christ, her Lord; She is His new creation By water and the Word. From heav'n He came and sought her To be His holy bride; With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.

"The Church's One Foundation" Samuel John Stone

God grant that I may be completely unsettled and unresting until I am assured that I am included in Christ, by grace and through faith. Give me love and zeal for Your bride, the church, for all my days. And grant that I will increasingly be convinced of my need for fellowship with Your people in the context of the church.

Amen

Who or What Is the Church?

## **Additional Resources**



#### **Online Resources**

Sermons, articles, and devotions can be found by scanning the QR code or by visiting tfl.org/christian-faith-list.

#### Sermons by Alistair

- What Is the Church?
- Seven Marks of an Effective Church

#### **Articles & Devotions**

- "Alistair Begg on Finding a Church"
- "Together Is Where We Belong"
- "A Gospel Church"

#### **Recommended Books**

- Devoted to God's Church by Sinclair B. Ferguson
- *Corporate Worship* by Matt Merker

## 10 **The Sacraments**



The sacraments—baptism and the Lord's Supper—do not signify, don't teach us, any other truths than the truths that are taught in the Bible.

ALISTAIR BEGG





#### **The Sacraments**

# Getting Started

What comes to mind when you see or hear the phrase *the sacraments*? 01.

What is your current understanding of the Lord's Supper and its significance? 02.

Have you been baptized? If so, when and why? If not, why haven't you done so? 02.



#### Read Acts 2:42–47 and answer the questions below.

What was the local church in Acts 2 committed to? 01.

What are some notable characteristics of that church? 02.



### Listen to "The Sacraments"

#### SESSION 10 The Sacraments

## Listen & Learn

**Key Term** sacraments outward and visible signs of an inward and spiritual grace that were ordained by God

The sacraments are outward, visible signs of inward, invisible grace—but we must not confuse the sign with the thing signified! Alistair helps us to distinguish between the symbols of baptism and the Lord's Supper and the realities to which they point. These ordinances are given to believers as commands from Christ in order to commemorate and proclaim Him. When we share in them, our faith is strengthened and our anticipation for Christ's return grows.

The sacraments have been given to the church so that He might be remembered and proclaimed in the church until He comes again. They must therefore never be downplayed or ignored. In this lesson, you will learn the important role that the sacraments play in your growth as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

#### Fill in the Blank

01. "The reality to which [the sacraments] point is \_\_\_\_\_, not

02. List the five characteristics of the Lord's Supper:

a. It is an in which we	Christ.
-------------------------	---------

- It is a \_\_\_\_\_ In which we \_\_\_\_\_ Christ. b.
- It is a \_\_\_\_\_ In which we \_\_\_\_\_ Christ. С.
- It is a \_\_\_\_\_\_ on Christ. d.
- It is an \_\_\_\_\_\_ for Christ. e.

#### **Short Answer**

According to Protestants, how many sacraments are there, and what are they? 01.

02. What is the Roman Catholic view of the Lord's Supper?

#### Notes

Additional notes on page 108





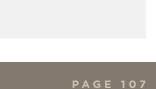
#### SESSION 10 **The Sacraments**

# Going Deeper

There are clear differences between the Roman Catholic view of the sacraments and 01. the Protestant view. What are some of the key differences, and why do they matter?

The Lord's Supper is not just a religious ritual or a symbolic reminder of Christ's 02. death. Rather, God spiritually meets with His people as they participate in the Lord's Supper. How does this understanding of the Lord's Supper elevate its importance?

While Alistair focuses most of his attention in this sermon on a survey of the 03. sacraments and an explanation of the Lord's Supper, he teaches the following truths about baptism: it's a matter of obedience for believers, and it doesn't add to what is taught in the Bible. According to Scripture, what do we know about baptism? (Consider reading passages such as Acts 2:37-38; 8:26-38; Rom. 6:3-4; Eph. 4:4–6; and Col. 2:8–14.)



#### SESSION 10 **The Sacraments**

### **Praise & Prayer**

Guide me, O my great Redeemer, Pilgrim through this barren land; I am weak, but You are mighty; Hold me with Your powerful hand. Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, Feed me now and evermore.

> "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" William Williams

O God my Father, how I long for the clarity of Your truth to dawn upon my mind, for the immensity of Your love to grip my heart afresh, and for the wonder of Your dealings to frame my activities. I pray that You would save me from seeing Your sacraments as mere routine. Instead, when I partake in the Lord's Supper or witness baptisms, help me to look back in wonder, to look around in gratitude, and to look forward in anticipation. Amaze me again and again with Your abounding grace.

then

The Sacraments

## **Additional Resources**



#### **Online Resources**

Sermons, articles, and devotions can be found by scanning the QR code or by visiting tfl.org/christian-faith-list.

#### Sermons by Alistair

- "The Biblical Basis for Baptism"
- "The Nature and Meaning of the Lord's Supper"
- "The Baptism Debate"

#### **Articles & Devotions**

- "6 Bible Verses on Baptism"
- "Saved by Sacrifice"

#### **Recommended Books**

- and Bruce A. Ware
- *Truth We Can Touch* by Tim Chester

THE BASICS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

Baptism: Three Views by Sinclair B. Ferguson , Anthony N. S. Lane,

The Lord's Supper: Remembering and Proclaiming Christ until He Comes, edited by Thomas R. Schreiner and Matthew R. Crawford

# 11 Keeping His Commands





SESSION 11 **Keeping His Commands** 

# Getting Started

What does it mean to behave like Jesus? 01.

When you hear the word *obedience*, what comes to mind? 02.



#### **Read 1 John 2:3–11 and answer the questions below.**

What are the marks of someone who knows God? 01.

What is the "new commandment"? What does disobeying it reveal? 02.



Listen to "Keeping His Commands"

#### SESSION 11 **Keeping His Commands**

## Listen & Learn

The apostle John issued a clear warning to the early church against those who professed Christ yet maintained sinful, self-centered lifestyles. Alistair explains that in contrast, genuine faith is marked by love for God's commandments and love for others. As Christians, our obedience should not feel like drudgery. Instead, our moral character should reflect our joyful belonging to Christ.

Obedience is an essential, yet often misunderstood, element of the Christian life. This session will help you consider how to joyfully obey Jesus in a manner that magnifies His finished work upon the cross.

#### **Key Terms**

#### antinomianism

from the Greek anti (against) and *nomos* (law); an unbiblical belief that there are no moral laws from God that believers are expected to obey

#### legalism

an unbiblical belief or way of living that emphasizes obedience to God's moral laws as the grounds for salvation and spiritual growth

#### **Short Answer**

Which two "tests" from 1 John does Alistair unpack in this message? 01.

While the ground of our salvation is in the atoning work of Jesus, what provides 02. evidence of our salvation?

#### Notes

#### Fill in the Blank



02. "Love \_\_\_\_\_\_ straight. Love \_\_\_\_\_\_ clearly. Love us from \_\_\_\_\_\_ into unbalanced

judgments and conduct."

Additional notes on page 118

PAGE 115



#### SESSION 11 Keeping His Commands

## Going Deeper

01. Why is it appropriate and necessary to affirm that those who truly know God, although they still sin, are marked by their obedience to God's Word?

#### 02. In what ways is Christian love distinct from the world's understandings of love?



#### **PAGE 117**

#### SESSION 11 **Keeping His Commands**

### **Praise & Prayer**

When we walk with the Lord In the light of His Word, What a glory He sheds on our way! While we do His good will, He abides with us still, And with all who will trust and obey.

Trust and obey, for there's no other way To be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey.

> "Trust and Obey" John Henry Sammis

**F**ather, write Your Word on my heart. Bring me, Lord, from a broad road that leads to destruction onto the narrow road that leads to life. Move me by Your grace from Dead End Street into the realm where life in all of its fullness is found in Christ. And then help me, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to increasingly be conformed to the image of Jesus, who did not come to be served but to serve and gave His life as a ransom for many. In His name I pray.

Amen

**Keeping His Commands** 

## **Additional Resources**



#### **Online Resources**

Sermons, articles, and devotions can be found by scanning the QR code or by visiting tfl.org/christian-faith-list.

#### Sermons by Alistair

- Pathway to Freedom
- "Wholehearted Obedience"

#### **Articles & Devotions**

- "The Power and Mystery of Obedience"
- "The Paradox of Freedom in Christ"
- "What Does Obedience Have to Do with Following Jesus?"

#### **Recommended Books**

- Devoted to God by Sinclair B. Ferguson
- *The Mortification of Sin* by John Owen
- *Pathway to Freedom* by Alistair Begg

THE BASICS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH



## 12 Vital Signs





#### **Vital Signs**

# Getting Started

What are some traits that come to mind when you think about a healthy church? 01.

What are at least three specific ways that you can glorify God? 02.



#### Read 1 Peter 4:7–11 and answer the questions below.

What are some of the spiritual gifts that are seen in the body of Christ? 01.

Why should Christians always depend upon "the strength that God supplies" when 02. using spiritual gifts?



#### SESSION 12 **Vital Signs**

## Listen & Learn

**Key Term** spiritual gift

any ability that is given and enabled by God Himself and used in church ministry

In the same way that there are vital signs which show that the body is alive, there are vital signs that measure the health of Christ's body-the church. Alistair shares how prayer, love, hospitality, service, and worship are all necessary qualities for a church to have if it hopes to survive.

This session focuses on how the call to love and serve those around us is intertwined with the ultimate goal of giving glory to God.

#### Fill in the Blank

01. "Hospitality is simply \_\_\_\_\_\_ our doors and \_\_\_\_\_\_ people to

\_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_\_ the way they are."

**02.** "There is nobody in the body of Christ who has not been \_\_\_\_\_\_ under God."

#### **Short Answer**

According to Alistair's sermon, what are the five vital signs for any church? 01.

What are the two principles that undergird Christian service? 02.

At one point in the sermon, Alistair asks, "How are we to serve in the body of 03. Christ?" How does he then answer this question?

#### Notes

Additional notes on page 128



SESSION 12 Vital Signs

# Going Deeper

In this sermon, Alistair quotes a hymn that says, "There's a work for Jesus none but 01. you can do." Based on your current understanding of Scripture and feedback you have received from other believers, how has God gifted you to serve the church?

Why is dependence upon God's power essential for any ministry that aims to 02. glorify Him alone?

What will it practically look like for you to minister in the strength that God supplies? 03.



#### SESSION 12

#### Vital Signs

### **Praise & Prayer**

I look not back; God knows the fruitless efforts, The wasted hours, the sin, the deep regrets. I leave them all with Him who blots the record. And graciously forgives, and then forgets.

But I look up into the face of Jesus, For there my heart can rest, my fears are stilled; And there is joy, and love, and light for darkness, And perfect peace, and ev'ry hope fulfilled.

> "I Look Not Back" Annie Johnson Flint

Thank You, Father, that Your purpose for Your people is to make us complete in Christ. I confess that as I consider vital signs of the believer, I often cringe in the awareness of my own weaknesses. But I want to thank You that the Son has said, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness."

It is Your blood and Your righteousness, Lord Jesus, that allows me to come boldly before Your throne of grace. I stand complete in You, knowing that I'm not what I once was, I'm not all I'm going to be, but I am different, by Your grace. And so I pray that I might heed Your commands and Your warnings, that You will pour out Your Spirit upon me in fresh measure, and that You will help me and guard me day by day. In Christ's name.

twen

#### Vital Signs

## **Additional Resources**



#### **Online Resources**

Sermons, articles, and devotions can be found by scanning the QR code or by visiting tfl.org/christian-faith-list.

#### Sermons by Alistair



"The Danger of Spiritual Paralysis"

#### **Articles & Devotions**

- "The New You"
- "Known by Their Fruit"
- "Four Ways You Can Please the Lord"

#### **Recommended Books**

- *The Fruitful Life* by Jerry Bridges
- *Living for God's Pleasure* by Derek Prime
- Made for His Pleasure by Alistair Begg



**PAGE 129** 

# 13 Personal Evangelist

### "

and the state of the

To every Christian that may be preoccupied with that which is helpful but not best, this exhortation rings out from the lips of Jesus: 'I tell you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields; they're white for harvest.'

ALISTAIR BEGG



SESSION 13 Personal Evangelist

# Getting Started

Is there anyone in your life whom you consider to be gifted at sharing the Gospel with 01. others? If so, what about their approach stands out to you?

Is evangelism a normal part of your life? If so, explain how you approach it. If not, list a 02. few reasons for why you don't routinely share your faith.



#### **Read John 4:27–42 and answer the questions below.**

How is the Samaritan woman a good example of an evangelist? 01.

What is the purpose of Jesus' teaching about sowing, reaping, and the harvest in 02. verses 31–38? What are your main observations from this section?



### Listen to "Personal Evangelist"

#### SESSION 13 **Personal Evangelist**

## Listen & Learn

When Jesus encountered the Samaritan woman at the well, His love and compassion for her provided a perfect model of evangelism. He began their conversation with a simple question-"Will you give

#### me a drink?"--and ended it with a life-changing revelation: He was (and is) the Messiah. Alistair challenges us to emulate Jesus' approach to sharing our faith. As he reminds us, once we have had an encounter with Christ, we cannot help but become evangelists ourselves.

As important as it is for us to learn, grow, and be engaged with the church body, this session teaches that Christ has also called His followers to make disciples of all nations. This means that we must not become inwardly focused but should aim to reach those who do not yet know Jesus as Lord and Savior.

#### Fill in the Blank

01. "It is not evangelism—it is not the Gospel—to tell people that there are that			
attach if they will	the Gospel. It is not the Gospel to tell people that there are		
great	that await them if they	the Gospel."	
	_ is to tell people who, and that He is the self		
<b>03.</b> "Jesus is the only	because Jesus	is the only one	to save."

#### **Key Term**

#### evangelism

presenting Christ Jesus to sinful people in order that, through the power of the Holy Spirit, they may come to put their trust in God through Him<sup>1</sup>

#### **Short Answer**

As it relates to evangelism, what does Alistair suggest happens when "we lose sight of 02. the grandeur of the Gospel" and "take our eyes off Christ"?

How do unconverted people—the spiritually blind—realize they are blind? 03.

#### Notes

Additional notes on page 138

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> J. I. Packer, *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1961), 37-38, 40.



#### SESSION 13 **Personal Evangelist**

# Going Deeper

01. There are many places in Scripture where it seems that Jesus purposefully went out of His way for encounters with individuals. Why might this have been? In what ways can this motivate you to have evangelistic conversations?

How does Jesus' example encourage us to avoid being either too bombastic or too 02. passive in our approach?

Have you had the opportunity to share the Gospel with people in the past? If so, 03. what has (or has not) worked? And if not, what has held you back?



#### SESSION 13 **Personal Evangelist**

## **Praise & Prayer**

We've a story to tell to the nations That shall turn their hearts to the right, A story of truth and mercy, A story of peace and light.

We've a Savior to show to the nations, Who the path of sorrow has trod, That all of the world's great peoples Might come to the truth of God!

> "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations" Henry Ernest Nichol

Write down the name of at least one unbeliever you know who needs to hear the Gospel, and write down a prayer for him or her. Pray that God will grant you love, boldness, and opportunities to share your faith.

## **Personal Evangelist**

## **Additional Resources**



#### **Online Resources**

Sermons, articles, and devotions can be found by scanning the QR code or by visiting tfl.org/christian-faith-list.

#### Sermons by Alistair

- Crossing the Barriers: A 12-Lesson Study on Evangelism
- and Neighbors

#### **Articles & Devotions**

- "Gospel ABC"
- "Evangelism: God's Part and Ours"
- "A Matter of Concern"
- "The Gospel in a Godless City"

#### **Recommended Books**

- Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God by J. I. Packer
- *Honest Evangelism* by Rico Tice
- *Before You Share Your Faith* by Matt Smethurst

FRANgelism: How to Witness to Friends, Relatives, Associates,

## **Next Steps**

Once you have completed *The Basics of the Christian Faith*, consider going through the course again with someone else. Or if you would like to grow in your understanding of and confidence in evangelism, consider going through *Crossing the Barriers: A 12-Lesson Study on Evangelism*. Visit <u>tfl.org/crossingbarriers</u> to learn more.

To see more studies from Truth For Life and Alistair Begg, visit <u>truthforlife.org/studyguides</u>.

Provide your feedback about this study at <u>letters@truthforlife.org</u>.