

KNOWING THE TRUTH

PART TWO: SIN AND SALVATION

This booklet is designed to help you, a church leader, train others to serve and lead in the local church.

WHY BOTHER WITH TRAINING?

Most churches would love to have a few new leaders. But new leaders don't just magically appear! Leaders need to be identified, trained, and encouraged.

- Even naturally 'gifted' leaders benefit from training. People who are 'gifted' musicians received lessons and training at some point, and they have to practice regularly.
- Timothy was a 'gifted' leader (he received a 'gift from God' for ministry, 2 Timothy 1:6). But Timothy also received training, instruction, encouragement and feedback from Paul, an older and more experienced leader (see 1 and 2 Timothy).

WHO DOES THE TRAINING?

Future leaders can receive training and input from books, helpful websites, conferences, and classes. It makes sense for people with more experience in ministry to help those with less experience.

- Long-serving Sunday School teachers can train newbies. Veteran preachers can mentor newcomers. Skilful Bible study leaders can give input to those still learning how to lead.
- The Bible tells us that Bible-teaching leaders in the church have a responsibility to train and equip others for ministry and service. Ephesians 4:11-12 says that pastors and teachers are to "prepare God's people for works of service".

HOW CAN WE TRAIN?

Many of us are not professional teachers. Many of us wish we had received better training (instead of being ‘thrown in the deep end’!). So how can we train others well?

Planning a training programme is a lot like planning a journey on ‘Google Maps’.

Choose Destination: Where are we going? What is the goal of the training you are planning to offer? It’s good to clearly answer this question: “By the end of this training, what should the trainees know and be able to do?” It’s also worth asking “how can we know that we have arrived?” In other words, how will you assess the trainees to check that they are making good progress?

Choose Starting Point: Where are we starting from? How close, or far away, are the trainees from the final goal? What do they already know? What can they already do?

Choose Travel Mode: On Google Maps you can choose to drive, walk, bike, or take public transport. There are different ways to travel depending on your situation. There are also different ways to train others for ministry. Would it be best for the trainees (and you) to read and discuss a book together, go to a conference together, meet for informal Bible studies, should you run a class in your local church or enrol in online Bible College courses? You may try a number of different options.

Choose Your Route: Sometimes Google Maps will suggest a few ways different ways to get to your destination. You could take the fastest route or the slow and scenic way. What would be best for the people you are trying to train? What points do you need to cover to reach your destination? What themes and passages of the Bible will you need to visit along the way? Will you offer some short training opportunities to get them serving quickly, or would it be wise to take your time and not rush the process?

HOW DO I USE THIS BOOKLET?

These training booklets offer busy church leaders a plan for training people in the local church. They are designed to be:

- Short—each course is usually 5 sessions
- Interactive—a discussion not a lecture
- Flexible—you can use the bits you want and leave the rest
- Manageable—each session might take between an hour and 1.5 hours
- Realistic—they require minimum preparation and resources
- Scalable—you can use these with one trainee or 20

KNOWING THE TRUTH 2: COURSE OVERVIEW

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course learners will be able to use relevant Bible passages to explain what their own church believes about people, sin, salvation and the future.

ASSESSMENT:

- Trainees will discuss key Bible beliefs with their trainer during each session.
- Trainees will prepare a series of short Bible studies (or talks) to explain to others what their church believes and teaches.

COURSE PLAN:

Session	Points to cover
One	Knowing the truth about the People
Two	Knowing the truth about Sin
Three	Knowing the truth about Salvation
Four	Knowing the truth about the Church
Five	Knowing the truth about the Future

KNOWING THE TRUTH 2: SESSION ONE

SESSION AIM

By the end of this session, you should be able to:

- Discuss what it means for people to be “made in God’s image”.
- Use relevant verses to explain what your church believes about humanity.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Discussion	<p>Which of the following best reflects what the Bible teaches?</p> <p>a) People are generally good.</p> <p>b) People are generally bad.</p> <p>c) People are mostly good, but sometimes do bad things.</p> <p>d) People are mostly bad, but sometimes do good things.</p> <p>Which of the following best reflects what our neighbours believe?</p> <p>a) People are generally good.</p> <p>b) People are generally bad.</p> <p>c) People are mostly good, but sometimes do bad things.</p> <p>d) People are mostly bad, but sometimes do good things.</p> <p>– <i>Is there a difference between what the Bible says about people, and what our society believes? Why?</i></p>						
Bible study	<p>The Bible has a lot to say about us, and what we are like!</p> <p>Look up these verses and discuss what they teach us about people.</p> <table><tr><td>Genesis 1:26-28</td><td>Psalms 8</td><td>Psalms 103:13-18</td></tr><tr><td>Matthew 5:43-45</td><td>Acts 17:24-28</td><td>James 3:9</td></tr></table> <div><pre>graph LR; A[] --- B[PEOPLE]; C[] --- B; D[] --- B; E[] --- B; F[] --- B; G[] --- B;</pre></div> <p><i>If working in a group, you could make a ‘mind map’ with the word “PEOPLE” in the middle. Make a note of all your group learns as you read these verses.</i></p>	Genesis 1:26-28	Psalms 8	Psalms 103:13-18	Matthew 5:43-45	Acts 17:24-28	James 3:9
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Reflection	<p>All people are “made in God’s image” (Genesis 1:26-28). But what does this mean? Christians have understood this in different ways.</p> <p>Look at these four different ways of explaining what it means for people to be “made in God’s image”. Discuss together:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Are you convinced by any of these views?</i> – <i>What are their strengths and weaknesses?</i> <p>RELATING: God enjoys relationships (between Father, Son and Spirit). So being in God’s image means people enjoy relationships (with other people, and with God).</p> <p>DOING: The image of God is about what people do. God made the world and rules the world. People were commanded to rule over the world, to create and make, etc.</p> <p>THINKING: People are different from animals and other creatures. We can think logically, rationally, and we have a sense of right and wrong. This is how we are in God’s image, unlike the rest of creation.</p> <p>ALL OF THE ABOVE: The image of God is about all of our being, relationships and activities. Everything about us reflects God’s image. People as individuals, and humanity as a whole, are created in the image of God.</p>
Conclusion	<p>At the end of this course trainees should have prepared a series of short Bible studies (or Bible talks) to explain what your church believes and teaches.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – You may use these studies to help newcomers understand your church’s ‘Statement of Faith’. – You may want to plan a sermon series on ‘Things We Believe’. – Or you may want to run refresher courses for people who already attend your church, key leaders and volunteers, etc. <p>For homework, plan a short Bible study (or talk) on “People”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take a look at your church ‘Statement of Faith’. What does it say about people? • Try to put the key points from your ‘Statement of Faith’ into everyday language. Think of examples or illustrations that might help people understand. <i>(For example, if your ‘Statement of Faith’ says that all people “have equal dignity and worth” — what does this mean? How could you explain it to a new Christian?)</i> • Plan which key points you will teach, as well as the order you will present them in. • What Bible passages would you study together in order to understand these truths?


KNOWING THE TRUTH 2: SESSION TWO

SESSION AIM

By the end of this session, you should be able to:

- Summarise what the Bible teaches about sin.
- Explain the consequences of sin for people today.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Discussion	<p>Even though God made a very good world, sin has spoiled everything.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Where are the effects of sin and the suffering it causes most obvious in your church?</i> – <i>How has sin spoiled your community? What impact does it commonly have on the lives of your neighbours?</i> <p><i>If working in a group, you could write your thoughts on a whiteboard and discuss them together.</i></p> 
Bible study	<p>God made a very good world. But sin has spoiled everything.</p> <p>Look up these verses and talk about the questions that go with them.</p> <p>Genesis 3:1-7. When sin first entered the world:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> What was God doing? What was Satan doing? What were Adam and Eve doing? <p>Genesis 3:8-24 What was the impact of sin on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Adam and Eve's relationship with God? The snake? The woman? The man? Future generations? <p>Mark 7:20-23 What does Jesus say is wrong with people?</p>

Reflection	<p>A Christian author, Mike Emlet, says that Christians are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saints — we are God’s people and part of his family • Sinners — we still struggle with sin and the temptation to disobey God • Sufferers — we can be hurt by other people’s sin, or simply because we live in a broken world <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>How does your church help Christians who struggle with sin?</i> – <i>As a church leader, who helps and encourages you when you battle temptation?</i> – <i>If someone in your church is suffering because of other people’s sin, or because of life in a fallen world, what practical help does your church currently offer?</i>
Conclusion	<p>At the end of this course trainees should have prepared a series of short Bible studies (or Bible talks) to explain what your church believes and teaches.</p> <p>For homework, plan a short Bible study (or talk) on “Sin”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take a look at your church ‘Statement of Faith’. What does it say about sin? • Try to put the key points from your ‘Statement of Faith’ into everyday language. Think of examples or illustrations that might help people understand. (For example, if your ‘Statement of Faith’ says that Sin is “inherited from Adam” — what does this mean? How could you explain it to a new Christian?) • Plan which key points you will teach, as well as the order you will present them in. • What Bible passages would you study together in order to understand these truths?

KNOWING THE TRUTH 2: SESSION THREE

SESSION AIM

By the end of this session, you should be able to:

- Explain, from the Bible, what is meant when Christians talk about 'salvation'.
- Encourage others in your church to share the gospel confidently.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Discussion	<p>In this session we are thinking about 'salvation'.</p> <p>– <i>In your group, ask everyone to take a little time to share the story of how they were saved. What led you to become a Christian?</i></p>												
Bible study	<p>The Bible is all about salvation! From Genesis 3 onwards it is a story about God and how he will save his people from sin and its consequences.</p> <p><i>Discuss some of the following word pictures that the Bible uses to explain 'salvation'. What are they teaching us?</i></p> <table><tr><td>LOST</td><td>Luke 15:1-7</td></tr><tr><td>SICK</td><td>Luke 5:27-32</td></tr><tr><td>DEAD</td><td>Ephesians 2:1-10</td></tr><tr><td>WASHED</td><td>1 Corinthians 6:9-11</td></tr><tr><td>ADOPTED</td><td>Ephesians 1:3-6</td></tr><tr><td>SLAVERY</td><td>John 8:31-36</td></tr></table>	LOST	Luke 15:1-7	SICK	Luke 5:27-32	DEAD	Ephesians 2:1-10	WASHED	1 Corinthians 6:9-11	ADOPTED	Ephesians 1:3-6	SLAVERY	John 8:31-36
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Reflection	<p>God wants men and women, boys and girls, to be saved! He wants them to hear the good news about Jesus, and to put their trust in him.</p> <p>Discuss these questions with other church leaders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>What does your church do to share the saving message of Jesus with non-Christians?</i> – <i>Do you personally feel confident explaining the gospel to others? Why/why not?</i> – <i>What is ONE THING your church leaders could do, in the next 12 months, to help your congregation know and share the gospel with confidence? Make a plan today!</i>
Conclusion	<p>At the end of this course trainees should have prepared a series of short Bible studies (or Bible talks) to explain what your church believes and teaches.</p> <p>For homework, plan a short Bible study (or talk) on “Salvation”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take a look at your church ‘Statement of Faith’. What does it say about salvation? • Try to put the key points from your ‘Statement of Faith’ into everyday language. Think of examples or illustrations that might help people understand. <i>(For example, if your ‘Statement of Faith’ says that salvation is “a gift from God, apart from works” — what does this mean? How could you explain it to a new Christian?)</i> • Plan which key points you will teach, as well as the order you will present them in. • What Bible passages would you study together in order to understand these truths?

KNOWING THE TRUTH 2: SESSION FOUR

SESSION AIM

By the end of this session, you should be able to:

- Explain what 'church' means according to the Bible.
- Describe how church members are meant to relate to one another.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Discussion	<p>Think about a time when you chose a church to belong to. (Or imagine moving cities and needing to find a new church).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>What are you looking for in a 'good church'?</i> – <i>What are you willing to compromise on, and NOT compromise on when it comes to a church?</i>
Bible study	<p>People use the word 'church' in many ways.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) A building — "They turned the old church into a café" ii) A service — "Church starts at 10am" iii) A group of people — "Richard is part of my church" iv) A denomination — "We are part of the Anglican Church" v) The worldwide followers of Jesus — "Some parts of the Church are being persecuted" <p>WHAT does the Bible say about church? WHO belongs to a church? WHAT does a church do? WHY do churches exist? HOW does someone join — or leave?</p> <p>Matthew 18:15-21 Acts 2:36-47 1 Corinthians 5:1-5 1 Corinthians 12:14-27 Ephesians 1:19-23 Ephesians 4:11-16 1 Timothy 3:1-6, 15 Hebrews 10:25 1 Peter 2:4-10</p> <div> <pre> graph LR C[CHURCH] --- B1[] C --- B2[] C --- B3[] C --- B4[] C --- B5[] C --- B6[] </pre> </div> <p><i>If working in a group, you could make a 'mind map' with the word "CHURCH" in the middle. Make a note of all your group learns as you read these verses.</i></p>

Reflection	<p>The letters of the New Testament are usually written to churches. They contain a lot of ideas about how church members are to treat one another (sometimes called the ‘one-anothers’ of the Bible).</p> <p>Discuss one or two of the following commands. How you could practically apply the verse in your church this week. Give examples!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love one another: John 13:34 • Honour one another above yourselves: Romans 12:10 • Serve one another: Galatians 5:13 • Be patient, bearing with one another in love: Ephesians 4:2 • Teach and admonish one another: Colossians 3:16 • Encourage one another daily: Hebrews 3:13 • Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other: James 5:16
Conclusion	<p>At the end of this course trainees should have prepared a series of short Bible studies (or Bible talks) to explain what your church believes and teaches.</p> <p>For homework, plan a short Bible study (or talk) on “the Church”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take a look at your church ‘Statement of Faith’. What does it say about the church? • Try to put the key points from your ‘Statement of Faith’ into everyday language. Think of examples or illustrations that might help people understand. <i>(For example, if your ‘Statement of Faith’ says that the church is “the universal body of Christ” – what does this mean? How could you explain it to a new Christian?)</i> • Plan which key points you will teach, as well as the order you will present them in. • What Bible passages would you study together in order to understand these truths?

KNOWING THE TRUTH 2: SESSION FIVE

SESSION AIM

By the end of this session, you should be able to:

- Explain what the Bible teaches about the future for all people.
- Describe what will happen when Jesus Christ returns.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Discussion	<p>How would you answer the following question in a simple way so that a child or young person could understand:</p> <p>– “What happens when we die?”</p>
Bible study	<p>For Christian people, we believe this life will end:</p> <p>i) when we die, OR</p> <p>ii) when Jesus returns.</p> <p>What do the following verses teach about death?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Genesis 2:15-17• Luke 16:19-31• Romans 5:12• 1 Corinthians 15:50-58• 2 Corinthians 5:6-10• Philippians 1:21-24• 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 <p><i>If working in a group, you could write your thoughts on a whiteboard and discuss them together.</i></p>



Reflection	<p>The great hope of the Bible is that Jesus will come back! But Bible-believing Christians sometimes disagree about exactly how/when that will happen.</p> <p>You may want to reflect on the follow verses about the return of Jesus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Matthew 25:31-46 – Acts 1:6-11 – Philippians 3:17-21 – Titus 2:11-14 – 2 Peter 3:8-13 – Revelation 20:11-21:8 <p>Discuss with other church leaders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) <i>Do you personally have strong views about the “end times” events (such as the millennium, whether Jesus will return before or after the tribulation, what will happen to Israel in the future?)</i> ii) <i>Does your church welcome people with different “end times” views, or is one view mainly taught and affirmed by everyone?</i> iii) <i>What are the key truths about the “end times” and return of Jesus that are most important in your ministry and teaching?</i>
Conclusion	<p>At the end of this course trainees should have prepared a series of short Bible studies (or Bible talks) to explain what your church believes and teaches.</p> <p>For homework, plan a short Bible study (or talk) on “the Future”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take a look at your church ‘Statement of Faith’. What does it say about the future? • Try to put the key points from your ‘Statement of Faith’ into everyday language. Think of examples or illustrations that might help people understand. <i>(For example, if your ‘Statement of Faith’ says that in the future “Jesus will judge the just and the unjust” — what does this mean? How could you explain it to a new Christian?)</i> • Plan which key points you will teach, as well as the order you will present them in. • What Bible passages would you study together in order to understand these truths? <p><i>What will you do with these completed Bible studies? Who, in your church, would benefit from going through these studies (or listening to the talks) you have prepared?</i></p>