

WEEK 2

WHO IS GOD?

OBJECTIVE

Come prepared to dive into a conversation as people confront their perceptions of God. You'll create space for your group to wrestle through the reality of the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).

CHECKLIST

- Pray over each group member by name.
- Send out a mid-week text to check in with Small Group members.
- Reiterate the commitment from the FOUNDATIONS book.
- Remind group members of upcoming Next Steps opportunities (Baptism, Connect, etc.).
- Introduce the Week 9 Serve Experience and encourage members to research an opportunity to serve.
- Select someone to share their story next week.

SMALL GROUP

SOCIAL: 10 MINUTES

Welcome the group, introduce and re-introduce people, create a comfortable and inviting environment.

ICEBREAKER: 5 MINUTES

"Before we watch our video together, how did you see God work through your FOUNDATIONS devotions? Were there any questions that came to mind as you dove into each devotional and reflection time? Let's go around."

STORY: 3 MINUTES

At least a few days in advance, ask one person from the group to share their story of what their life was like before Jesus and when they made the decision to follow Jesus. (Be sure to hold them to a 3-minute limit!)

INTRODUCTION: 5 MINUTES

Remind attendees of the purpose of this group and the importance of their (and your) commitment to it. Celebrate any milestones or next steps of individuals in the group.

Use this as an opportunity to share the importance of accountability and commitments.

"Go ahead and show the group your signature from the commitment page."

VIDEO: 15 MINUTES

Set up the video and introduce Pastor Patrick Crawford.

"This week, we'll be jumping into our first FOUNDATIONS topic: Who is God? This is a loaded question for many people—and likely a complex question for many of us to answer in confidence. There is just SO MUCH to the God that we serve."

READ: 2 MINUTES

Open your Bibles together and read through this week's passage. Be sure that everyone is able to find the book, chapter and verses and encourage group members to take turns reading.

What may be known about God is plain to [us], because God has made it plain to [us]. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

Romans 1:19-20

DISCUSSION: 30 MINUTES

Lead the group through the reflection questions, encouraging them to even ask their own questions. (This is not the time for the leader to talk, but for participants to engage with each other. Rule of thumb: you talk 30% of the time, they talk 70% of the time.) Be sure that no one or two people dominate the conversation, but you're facilitating and directing the participation of everyone.

QUESTION 1:

How does this statement get you excited to learn more about God? God cannot be DEFINED by our own ideas, but He must be DISCOVERED according to his revelation.

QUESTION 2

How have you seen God in creation?

QUESTION 3

What has been your understanding of God being Three-in-One?

QUESTION 4

The Holy Spirit is a person. Up until now, what has been your understanding of the Holy Spirit? Has your perspective of the Holy Spirit changed?

PRAYER: 15 MINUTES

Split up into groups of two and pray.

Prayer Focus: Even if we don't fully understand God, we still choose to submit anyway. Share one thing in your life you need to submit over to him. Take time praying over one another and the ways the Holy Spirit will work through what you have chosen to submit.

NEXT STEPS: 5 MINUTES

Introduce the materials and encourage members to engage in their weekly devotions for the coming week. Discuss any upcoming events or opportunities for them to take next steps (attending worship experiences, baptism, Rock City Connect, serving beyond our walls).

- Show up next week
- As you look to next week's topic of "Who Am I?" be sure to reflect on this subject and write down any questions you may have as you go through your devotions this week.
- If anyone has not yet been baptized, encourage them to pray about taking that next step (rockcitychurch.tv/baptism).