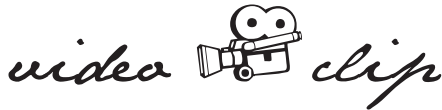


W E E K

SESSION 4

who's God?

- If someone asked you "Who is God?" how would you define / describe God?
- If you're willing, tell about about one experience in your life when you've felt close to God or experienced the presence of God.



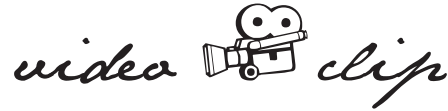
- What were your reactions to all of the video clip thoughts on God?
- What factors, do you think, influenced those people to determine their individual definitions of "Who is God?"
- When you wrote down your definition of "Who is God?" what factors influenced your definition?
- Of all the factors you've mentioned in the last two questions, which ones fog and "eclipse" our understanding of God and which ones "remove the shadow"?
- Dr. Tackett ended with the question, "What is eternal life?" If we played the tape further, we'd find him citing several passages in the Gospel of John which talk about eternal life (4:13-14, 5:24, 5:39-40, 6:27, 6:54). He finishes with John 17:1-3:

"After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may _____, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."

Knowing God -- even now -- is eternal life. Why, therefore, is "God is who he says he is" one of the most important statements that we must ever wrestle with or accept?

SESSION 1

what's truth



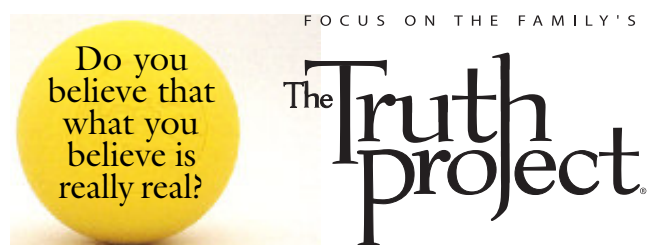
- Jesus said, "For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to _____." Very quickly -- and without looking up this verse -- why would you say Jesus came?

Do you remember *The Truth Project* video clip shown in worship a few weeks ago? Dr. Tackett cited this verse. Why did Jesus come? His students said things like "to save us," "to redeem us," "to bind up the broken-hearted and set the captives free." Each time, Dr. Tackett said, "I love that answer ... but no."

So Dr. Tackett finally fills in the John 18:37 blank. On trial before Pilate, Jesus says, "For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to *testify to the truth.*"

He then cites dozens of New Testament passages that speak about truth (true, truth, truly, etc. are used 132 times in the Gospels and 240 times in the New Testament overall). Dr. Tackett then asks are you beginning to get the sense that truth is important to God?

- What difference does it make that "truth is reality as perceived by God"?
- Dr. Tackett's key question at the end of this session is: "*Do you believe that what you believe is really real?*"
 - + What does this question mean?
 - + What difference would real belief make in your life?
 - + And do you believe that what you believe is really real?



leader's notes

Intro

as people gather, ask people to fill out note card:

- + name
- + phone / email
- + pray requests
- + If someone asked you "Who is God?" how would you define / describe God?

discuss these 2 questions
13 minutes max

SESSION

● If someone you define

● If you're w in your life rience the

Session 4 6:27-16:40

● What were your reactions to all of the video clip thoughts on God?

● What factors do people "Who is

3 major categories of answers: 1) Word 2) culture 3) personal experience

● When you wrote down your definition of "Who is God?" what factors influenced your definition?

● Of all the questions, standing o shadow?"

remove the shadow:
1) Word
eclipse: 2) culture
3) personal experience

● Dr. Tackett ended with the question, "What is eternal life?" If we played the tape further, we'd find him citing several passages in the Gospel of John which talk about eternal life (4:13-14, 5:24, 5:39-40, 6:27, 6:54). He finishes with John 17:1-3:

"After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may **know you**, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."

Knowing God -- even now -- is eternal life. Why, therefore, is "God is who he says he is" one of the most important statements that we must ever wrestle with or accept?

finish this section no later than 42 minutes after start of hour

SESSION 1

what's truth

Session 1 38:00-40:16

● Jesus said, "For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to _____." Very quickly -- and without looking up th: Jesus came:

**Let them answer quickly
Don't you answer yet**

Do you remember *The Truth Project* video clip shown in worship a few weeks ago? Dr. Tackett cited this verse. Why did Jesus come? His students said things like "to save us," "to redeem us," "to bind up the broken-hearted and set the capti free." Each time he answer ... bu

Read this as a prelude to the next question

So Dr. Tackett blank. On tri more I ate, Jesus says, "For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth."

He then cites dozens of New Testament passages that speak about truth (true, truth, truly, etc. are used 132 times in the Gospels and 240 times in the New Testament overall). Dr. Tackett asks are is impor

Make sure they connect this with "removing the shadow" from today's first section: How do we know God's perception of reality?

● What di as perce

● Dr. Tackett's key question at the end of the session is: "Do you ally real?"

- + What does this
- + What difference life?
- + And do you be ally real?

If they have trouble answering, ask what difference this would make in prayer for example

Leader Notes:


- People are more important than getting through everything.
- Relationships (especially with God) are more important than right answers.
- Draw out the quiet. Balance out the talkers.

close with prayer!

SESSION 2

philosophy

- How would you define philosophy?
- How does a person's philosophy effect their ethics?
- The Word of God says, "See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ." (Col 2:8).
 - + Quickly, what is the tone of this verse?
 - + Warning to whom?
 - + What does this imply?
 - + Taken captive by what?

video clip 

- Reactions to what you've just seen ...
- Two worldviews: "Nothing beyond the box" vs. "God made, influences, and is utterly beyond the box." What difference does it make?
- Dr. Tackett says, "Assumptions are the most dangerous form of knowledge. Assumptions are caught and bought without an open, concious dialogue. If you buy a statement, you buy its assumptions as well." Can you recall some of the assumptions that you've bought into (perhaps as a youth) that you regret or would like to challenge today?
- How have you found yourself or people around you, consciously or unconsciously, being taught and/or believing the philosophy of the cosmic cube?
- What difference does it make that God is real, creating, powerful, and outside the box?
- What difference does it make *to you*?

SESSION 3

who's man

- Very, very quickly ... Who is "man"?
- What does the Bible say about man? Fill in the blanks:



God created and it was _____.
Let's call man's original state _____.

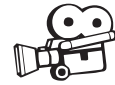


Then there was the _____.
His new state is _____.
But he still carries a piece of the _____.



Fallen man has two options:
_____ or _____
We are redeemed, yet still carry a piece of the previous state: _____.

Galations 5:16 So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. **17** For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.

video clip 

- Why is the lie of self-actualization and focusing on self so tempting ... and so damaging?
- BIBLE says vs. WORLD says
 image of God vs. comes from the box
 man is fallen vs. man is basically good
 man needs redemption vs. man okay as is
 - + Which worldview explains evil better?
 - + Which worldview offers hope?
 - + What will you answer next time someone asks you to explain evil?
- Why does the world reject the church?

Pray & collect prayer requests

leader's notes

SESSION 2

philosophy

- How does a person's philosophy effect their ethics?

intro: 4 min max

- The Word of God says, "See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ." (Col 2:8)
- + Quickly, w
- + Warning to
- + What does
- + Taken capt

Tone: Warning
To whom: Believers
Imply: We can be taken captive
By what: "hollow, deceptive philosophies"

Session 2  4:50-17:10

- Reactions to what you've just seen ...
- Two worlds
"God made the box." What are the most dangerous assumptions are caught in the dialogue. If you have assumptions as well as the things that that you r
- How have you, considered and/or been influenced by the cube?
- What differences are there between the inside and outside the box?
- What difference does it make to you?

End: at half past because the second part is just as good.

SESSION 3

who's man

Do intro very quickly
4 1/2 minutes max

- Very, very q
- What does the Bible say about man? Fill in the blanks



Let them guess before you answer

God created and it was **good**.
Let's call man's original state **innocent**



Then there was the **Fall**.
His new state is **broken**.
But he still carries a piece of the **image of God**.



Fallen man has two options:
Redemption or **Death**

We are redeemed, yet still carry a piece of the previous state: **sinful nature**.

Galatians 5:16 So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. **17** For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.

Session 3  35:09-49:06

- Why is the lie self so tempting
"God tells us what those selfish desires lead to"
- BIBLE says vs. WORLD says *man is made in image of God vs. comes from the box man is fallen vs. man is basically good man needs redemption vs. man okay as is*
+ Which worldview is better?
+ Why?
+ Why?
1. Biblical: Fall leads to evil
2. Biblical: Redemption=Hope
- Why is there a **lack of God/biblical worldview = no purpose, hope, redemption**
- Why does the world reject the Bible?
God defines right and wrong and life-giving and best. But that challenges selfish desires.

Leader Note

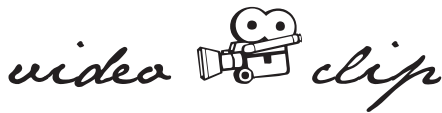
- Relationships are more important than accomplishing everything in the lesson. But if people are wanting to discuss more, begin hinting at the possibility of longer sessions.

close with prayer!

SESSION 5

Science

- Why is there something rather than nothing?
Why is anything in motion rather than still?
Why is there hot rather than cold?
Why is there order rather than chaos?
Why is there life rather than deadness?
Why is there music?
- The Creed says, “I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.” Do you honestly, truly, wonderfully believe that God created all that exists? What difference does that make?

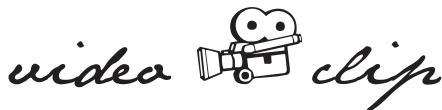


- Read ...

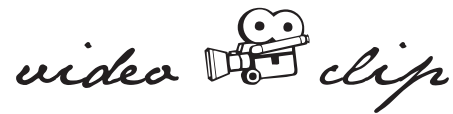
Romans 1:19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. **20** Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made.

Job 12:7 “But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; **8** ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. **9** Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? **10** In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being.

- Why should Christians – instead of being scared of science – advocate the very best science in the world?

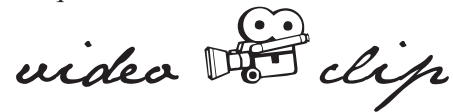


- In faith and science debates, do you think too much emphasis is placed on the “how” of creation instead of the “wow” of creation?
- What are your biggest wows when looking at creation?
- At the end of this session -- if your group has time -- you may wish, as an act of faith in the God of wows, to pause for a minute and pray. For those who are willing, take turns turning your wows into a prayers. (For example, “Thank you, God, for the vastness of the universe! Thank you, God, for the intricacy of each cell! You are awesome, God!”)

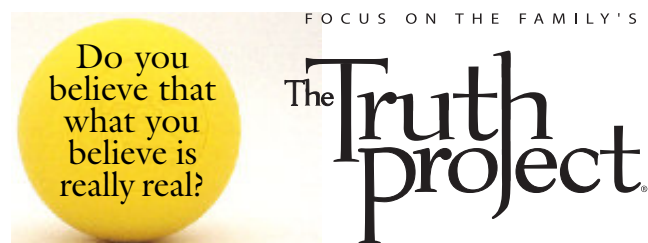


- Nobel Prize winner Francis Crick, the co-discoverer of DNA, once said, ““An *honest* man, armed with all the knowledge available to us now, could only state that in some sense, the origin of life appears at the moment to be almost a *miracle*, so many are the conditions which would have had to have been satisfied to get it going.” Given the fact that many scientists are beginning to say that time and chance cannot possibly explain the complexity of creation, how do *you* explain the “miracle” of creation?

- In spite of Francis Crick’s calling the origin of life “almost ... mirac[ulous],” this scientist was such an avowed atheist that “in 1961 [he] resigned as a fellow of Churchill College, Cambridge, when it proposed to build a chapel.” Refusing to admit the existence of God, what then is his explanation for the complexity of creation? “Crick proposed, in a book called *Life Itself*, that some form of primordial life was *shipped to the earth billions of years ago in spaceships*—by supposedly ‘more evolved’ (therefore advanced) alien beings.” What’s the obvious question that this raises?



- How have people used science to eliminate our need for God?
- What effects has this had on the lives of people – even the faith of Christians?



Pray & collect
prayer requests

leader's 3 notes

SESSION 5

Science

- Why is there something rather than nothing?
Why is anything in motion rather than still?
Why is there hot rather than cold?
Why is there light rather than dark?
Why is there life rather than no life?

Intro: 5 minutes max
2nd question only if time

- The Creed says, "I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth." Do you honestly, truly, wonderfully believe that God created all that exists? What difference does that make?

Session 7 0:00 - 8:50

- Read ...

Romans 1:19 For what can be seen about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. **20** Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made.

Job 12:7 "But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; **8** ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. **9** Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord is with them, that they may be in the hand of the Lord? **10** Why should they not fear the Lord, who has created them, who has made them, who has given them life and breath, who has made every living thing?"

Why should they not fear the Lord, who has created them, who has made them, who has given them life and breath, who has made every living thing?

Potential Answer:
Since God created science, it can ultimately teach us more about God.

Session 5^{pt 1} 0:00 - 9:22

- In faith and science debates, do you think too much emphasis is placed on science and creation instead of the "wonder" of creation?
- What are your biggest wows when looking at creation?
- At the end of this session -- if your group has time -- you may wish, as an act of faith in the God of wows, to pause for a minute and pray. For those who are willing, take turns turning your wows into a prayers. (For example, "Thank you, God, for the vastness of the universe! Thank you, God, for the intricacy of each cell! You are awesome, God!")

5 minutes max

Session 5^{pt 1} 29:27 - 35:05

- Nobel Prize winner Francis Crick, the co-discoverer of DNA, once said, "An honest man, armed with all the knowledge available to him, could only state that in some unknown way the origin of life appears at the moment to be almost a miracle -- so many are the conditions which would have to be just so, for it to occur, that it is almost incredible that it has occurred at all. It is almost as if a man, having written a great many sentences, were to stumble upon one that made sense." **5 minutes max**

Say: We're going to let one person answer this first question, because we want to get to the second question.

- In spite of Francis Crick's calling the origin of life "almost ... mirac[ulous]," this scientist was such an avowed atheist that "in 1961 [he] resigned as a fellow of Churchill College, Cambridge, when it was required that fellows be using to admit their religious beliefs. Crick proposed, "I believe in the form of primitive life that evolved over billions of years." What's the obvious question that this raises?

Obvious Question:
Where did it come from on the alien's planet?!
Use this as a springboard for A LITTLE discussion.

Session 5^{pt 1} 49:33 - 55:00

- How have people used science to eliminate our need for God?
- What effects has this had on the lives of people, even the faithful?

Potential Answer:
People feel they don't need God ... so ignore him.

Leader Notes:

- Deep topic so more video in this session.
- Therefore, you really have to watch the time you spend in discussion. Generally allow for one good quick answer, then move on. (i.e. Dr. Tackett will make the points in this session, not us in discussion.)
- If people want more discussion -- and/or to see more of the videos -- consider negotiating longer sessions or more sessions. If only some want this, we have full session groups waiting for people to be fed into, or they can go back through it (deeper) again in coming months.

close with prayer!

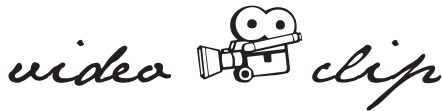
SUGGESTION AT LEFT

SESSION 7

family

- The theme for today is going to be relationships. Dr. Tackett provides for us some interesting math. Fill in the blanks (for example, a relationship with 50,000 = a crowd.)

- a relationship of 1 = _____
- a relationship with 2 = _____
- a relationship with 3 = _____
- a relationship with 4 = _____

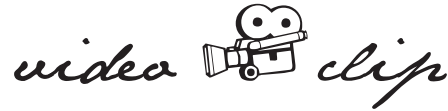


- Reactions ...
- How does this effect your view of marriage?
- Describe the ways that we, in our culture, ignore God's design for marriage. And what do you suppose are some of the consequences?
- Why does the world not like the word "submit"?
- How does Christ redeem this word through his relationship with the Father?
- How might American marriages be stronger if husbands laid down their lives for their wives (as Christ laid down his life for the church) and wives were encouraged by our culture to submit more to their husbands? (In general men ought to talk about the role of men and women the role of women -- otherwise it's too easy to complain about the other gender!)
- Dr. Tackett goes on to say that the more he learns about life and creation, "it's all about relationships." Reactions.
- Who do you need to submit to more in any phase of your life?

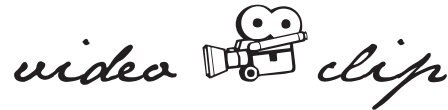
SESSION 8

church

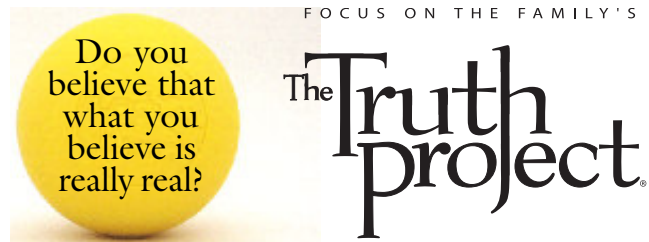
- What is the role of Church on earth?



- Same question ... What is the role of Church on earth?
- In one word, what is the relationship of Christ to the Church? _____
- In one word, what should be the role of the Church to Christ? _____



- Evaluate the role of the Church in America: How well do we submit to Christ and to scripture? Why and why not?
- What are ways that *you personally* could submit more to the calls of Christ, scripture, and the church?
- Have you ever seen a family ... or a church ... act in strong accord with God's plan? In what ways is this like "looking upon the glory of God"?



FOCUS ON THE FAMILY'S

The Truth project

Pray & collect prayer requests

leader's 4 notes

SESSION 7

family

Intro: 3 minutes max

to be relationships. Tackett provides for us some interesting math.

- Fill in the blank: _____ with _____
- 50,000 = _____
- a relat _____
- a relat _____
- a relat _____
- a relat _____

- 1=aloneness
- 2=relationship & intimacy
- 3=community & fellowship
- 4=doesn't add anything (still community & fellowship)

Session 7  12:45-24:40

● Read **Just talking through reactions may be the only question you need.**

● How does this effect your view of marriage?

● Describe the ways that we, in our culture, ignore God's design for marriage. And what do you suppose are some of the consequences?

● Why does **Potential Answer: We want to be God/in control**

● How does Christ redeem this word through his relationship with the Father?

● How might American marriages be stronger if husbands laid down their lives for their wives (as Christ laid down his life for the church) and wives were **Read >** (In general men ought to talk about the role of men and women the role of women -- otherwise it's too easy to complain about the other gender!)

● Dr. Tackett goes on to say that the more he learns about life and creation, "it's all about relationships." Reactions.

● Who d of your **End: no later than 35 minutes after the start of the hour**

SESSION 8

church

● What is the role of Church **3 minutes max**

Session 8  13:56 - 23:05

● Same question ... What is the role of Church on earth?

● In one word, what is the relationship of Christ to the Church? **Love**

● In one word, what should be the role of the Church to Christ? **Submission**

Session 8  30:00 - 33:00

Evaluate the role of the Church in America: How well do we submit to Christ and to scripture? Why and why not?

● What are more to church? **Accountability: Based on this question, ask people what one thing they plan to do NEXT WEEK to follow through on what they said!**

● Have you ever seen a family ... or a church ... act in strong accord with God's plan? In what ways is this like "looking upon the glory of God"?


Leader Notes:

- Draw the quieter people out.
- **Getting to know one another and with the topics getting more peronal, they're going to want to spend more time discussing.** Discuss ways you could have more time ...
 - + an hour and a half instead of an hour (two videos a week)
 - + slow down now: just one video a week and more weeks
 - + go back through it again -- with full-length videos -- once you're done
 - + etc.


close with prayer!

SESSION 9

government

video  clip

- Very, very quickly ... general reactions ...
- Can you think of Biblical stories where God and scripture talk about the role of government?

video  clip

- Trying to stay Biblical rather than personal and political, what are the responsibilities of government?
- And what are the limits of government?
- During your lifetime, how has government stayed within its sphere and how has it expanded into the spheres of ... family? ... labor? ... church? ... communities? ... God and man?
- How do we treat the government as Savior? And where does that leave God in people's lives?
- What should be the role of citizens when the King (or president or governor, etc.) doesn't honor God?
- One of Dr. Tackett's later points in the video is essentially this: When people begin to place the on the throne -- and thus reject God -- then ethics begin to be rejected too. King trumps God. King trumps ethics. King trumps man. King trumps life. Isn't that what happened with the 20th centuries dictators?


Look at the numbers of their own citizens killed

Stalin killed 42,672,000	Chaing Kai Shek 10,214,000
Mao killed 37,828,000	Pol Pot killed 2,397,000
Hitler killed 20,946,000	etc., etc.

SESSION 11

labor

- When someone says "work" what comes to mind?
- In one word let every member remind the others what they do for "work." (Note: Even out-of-work or retirees ought to claim a purpose.)

video  clip

- How does your understanding of work *now* compare to your impressions of work at the beginning?
- God's work was creative and creating. What do you need to do to redefine your work as creative and creating -- and therefore, joining in with the purposes of God in this world? (Indeed, how can everything you do be done to glory of God?)

- One of the key principals that Dr. Tackett talks about at the end of this video is *gleaning*.

Gleaning was God's way of providing for the poor while maintaining their dignity and upholding their vital need to work. In an agriculture-based society, farmers were told to do a quick harvest. That was their food and the fruit of their labors. They were told, however, to leave what was leftover for the poor. Why? Gleaning the fields provided for the poor while not robbing them of their purposeful need to work.

You're probably not a farmer. How can you provide gleanings in your line of work? For example, a wood working company (which used to sweep the floors and sell the wood chips) started inviting a few needful folks to sweep the floors and keep the profits. A musician said, "I could provide a few reduced-rate lessons to those who struggle financially." What might be your gleanings?

- Dr. Tackett says that too many Christians ruin their witness by not treating their work as a God-ordained purpose and privilege. What do you think would happen if every Christian sought to exceed expectations, making employers brag, "I just hired a Christian today!"

- What are subtle ways that people steal from their employers?

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY'S

Do you believe that what you believe is really real?

The Truth project

Pray & collect prayer requests

leader's notes

Accountability from last week: how'd you submit to God/church/volunteer?

SESSION

government

Session 9  0:00 - 5:00

They might talk about politics forever: limit first question to two minutes

- Very, very quick
- Call out questions where God and science meet government?

Second question: see below

Session 9  14:59 - 22:25

- Trying to stay Biblical in political government?
- And why?
- During government stayed within its sphere and how has it expanded into the spheres of ... family? ... labor? ... church? ... communities? ... God and man?

They'll probably want to talk politics: don't let it get too personal ... in fact, keep them moving quickly through as many questions as you can!

- How do we treat the government as Savior? And where does that leave God in people's lives?

Spend a little more time with this question

- One of Dr. Tackett's later points in the video is essentially this: When people begin to rule in the throne begin to be trumps ethics. Isn't that what dictators?

Question: How do we put ethics -- and ourselves -- at risk when we give the king too much authority?

Look at the numbers of their own citizens killed
Stalin killed 42,672,000
Mao killed 22 million
Chiang Kai-shek killed 25 million

Second question - 2 min max

You may wish to share Dr. Tackett's biblical story ... King Ahab covets Naboth's vineyard (1 Kg 21). Naboth refused. Ahab acts selfishly. The king / the government get the vineyard. God judges Ahab harshly.

End: no later than 35 min past; the second half's just as good

SESSION 11

labor

one or two people
2 minutes max

- When someone says ... mind?
- In one word let every member remind the others what they do for "work or retirees enough (purpose.)"

2 minutes max

Session 11  9:50 - 21:58

- How does your understanding of work *now* compare to your impressions of work at the beginning?

- God's work ... you need to ... and creating purposes of everything (be done to glory of God?)

Push them to spend some time with this one: Let each person answer deeply

- One of the key principals that Dr. Tackett talks about at the end of this video is *gleaning*.

Gleaning was God's way of providing for the poor while maintaining their dignity and upholding their vital need to work. In an agriculture-based society, farmers were told to do a quick harvest. That was their food and the fruit of their labors. They were told, however, to leave what was leftover for the poor. Why? Gleaning the fields provided for the poor while not robbing them of their purposeful need to work.

You're probably not a farmer. How can you provide gleanings in your line of work?

a wood ... the floors ... a few need ... the profits ... reduced-ratio ... cially." What might be your gleanings?

Spend some time here too: Let the group help one another a way to glean in each profession.

- Dr. Tackett says that too many Christians ruin their witness by not treating their work as a God-ordained purpose and privilege. What do you think would happen if every Christian sought to exceed expectations, making employers brag, "I just hired a Christian today!"

- What are subtle ways that people steal from their employers?

Leader Notes:

- These are two of the most practical videos. You may wish to devote a whole session to each!!


close with prayer!

W E **6** E K

SESSION 6

history

- Very quickly have each person in the group share one favorite memory from childhood -- a quick snapshot, like, "our trip to the beach when I was 9."
- Do you know anyone whose childhood held painful memories? *Have just one person share because between you, you probably have enough stories to fill the full hour.*

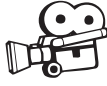
video  clip

- Our past shapes us. A great childhood generally makes us secure. An abusive childhood often leaves us with a longterm hole in our hearts. With that in mind, what do you think of this statement: "If you can re-write the past, you change the way people believe about the future."
- Do you believe that there is much historical revisionism in our culture today? If so, what effect do you see that it might be having upon our culture?
- We started this discussion with snapshots of our own childhood; what snapshots do you think God would include in his scrapbook?
- Did anyone say "everything in the Bible"? Though God's scrapbook is always ongoing -- new pages everyday -- every page of the Bible is God's scrapbook and God's special revelation. This is God's story! The question is: What does it mean to get caught up in God's story?

SESSION 10

america

- On a scale of 0 to 100 (100 being perfect), rate the current health of America. *NOTE: No politicizing or other discussion!!! Just let each person give a number.*

video  clip

- On a scale of 0 to 100 (100 being perfect), how well is America following its founding principles? *Again, just let each person give a number.*
- Now you may discuss! *Note: Don't turn this into a political discussion -- especially about America's current hot-button issues. Focus more on how our nation's current health relates to our faithfulness to our founding principals.*
- Why is it in vogue to hate America?
- What can we do as average citizens to restore pieces of America's founding core?

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY'S

Do you believe that what you believe is really real?

The Truth project®

Prayer & collect prayer requests

Leaders' 6 notes

SESSION 6

history

- Very quickly have each person in the group share one favorite memory from childhood -- a quick snapshot, like, "our trip to the beach when I was 9."

Intro 4 minutes max

- Do you know if your childhood held painful memories? *Have just one person share because between you, you probably have enough stories to fill the full hour.*



Session 6 6:40 - 16:40

- Our past shapes us. A great childhood generally makes us secure. An abusive childhood often leaves us with a longterm hole in our hearts. With that in mind, what do you think of this statement: "If you can re-write the past, you change the way people believe about the future."

Depending on your group and the time, add to this question "any examples of Biblical revisionism?"

- Do you believe that revisionism in our culture you see that it might

Encourage them to think about about Biblical stories as snapshots.

- We started our own child would include

Potential Answer: to live boldly and faithfully, following God's purposes

- Did anyone say "everything in the Bible"? Though God's scrapbook is new pages every day. God's scrapbook is God's story. We get caught up in the story?

End this discussion halfway through your group time! move to part 2

SESSION 10

america

- On a scale of 0 to 100 (100 being perfect), rate the current state of America. **3 minutes max** *Note: No politicking or over-explaining. Just let each person give a number.*

Before watching this clip say:

Dr. Tackett calls this lesson "The American Experiment." It started as an experiment and continues as an experiment. And he makes a huge point at the beginning of emphasizing that he is defying America nor overlooking the brokenness and humanness of the founding fathers. Nevertheless, he wants us to examine this experiment by looking at some of their founding ideals.

Session 10 9:18 - 28:28

Not much time left ...

- On a scale of 0 to 100 (100 being perfect), how well is America following its founding principles? **quick** *Again, just let each person give a number.*

- Now you may discuss! *Note: Don't turn this into a political discussion -- especially about America's current hot-button issues. Focus more on how our nation's current health relates to our faithfulness to our founding principals.*

- What can we do as average citizens to restore pieces of America's founding core?

If you run out of time before you get to this last question, send them home with this question to think about.

Leader Notes:

- Keep inviting people to go deeper -- either continuing your group or inviting them into another congregational group.
- People are more important than getting through everything.
- Relationships (especially with God) are more important than right answers.
- Draw out the quiet. Balance out the talkers.

close with prayer!

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SESSION 12

justice
video clip 

- What parable did Jesus tell right after this question?
- Who is *your* neighbor (... especially who that you don't really want it to be)?
- Why does Dr. Tackett say that this is perhaps the easiest sphere to ignore?
- God has a deep heart for the needy. Who are the needy?
- Can you think of any scriptures that reflect this?

video clip 

- Why does everything that we have studied matter?

Do you believe that what you believe is really real?

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY'S

The Truth project®

leader's 7 notes

Can you meet for this 7th week?!

If so consider doing this last session in a home over dinner or over coffee and dessert

Thanks you for leading!!!
We're not necessarily asking you to continue leading ... but ...
does your group want to continue meeting?

Options ...

1. Keep meeting and covenant for twelve more weeks, watching full sessions and discussing.
2. Keep meeting but choose a different topic.
see next page for possibilities
3. Join part of this group with part of another group -- talk to Kristen about options..
4. etc.

Consider meeting one more week still

This week's theme is justice. Might your group consider doing a group service project together next week?

Passages from just the Gospels that reflect God's concern for the needy:

Jesus born to poor virgin (Lk 1); laid in humble manger (Lk 2); his ancestry -- including some of the people God included in Jesus' genealogy, like Rahab the prostitute (Mt 1); the key prophecy that opened Jesus ministry -- Messiah sent to sight for blind, freedom for captives, good news for poor (Lk 4, Isa 61) --; "whenever you do it to one of the least of these ... you've done it to me (Mt 25); concern for lost sheep (Lk 15); invites children to him (Mt 19); called poor fishermen and built the kingdom upon them (Lk 5); meets with women / foreigners (Jn 4); touches the lepers, outcasts, and unclean (Mt 8, Mr 5); rides into Jerusalem on a humble donkey (Mk 11); forgives sins -- for we're all ultimately beggars before the throne (Mr 2); and says "blessed are the poor, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Lk 6); etc.; etc.

SESSION 12



Session 12 4:00 - 6:20

● What parable did Jesus tell right after this question? **Good Samaritan**

● Who is *your* neighbor (... especially who that you don't really want it to be)?

● Why does Dr. Tackett say that this is perhaps the easiest sphere to ignore? **There's no power (no incentive) within this sphere**

● God has ...
● Can you ...

In addition to poor and oppressed make sure to include: outcasts, unpopular, neglected, homely, lost

Session 12 35:50 - 43:18

● Why d... **Why?** Because all people matter to God. And we don't want to miss the truth, freedom, and life in how God wants us to live! **Leader:** you may wish to review previous discussion for key points.

close with prayer!