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PART 1

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**Passage 1:** Genesis 1:26–28, 31

Questions to discuss:

1. What do we learn about humanity in this passage?
2. What responsibility does God give to mankind?
3. What does God think of all that He has made?

For further discussion:

1. What picture of God do we get in this passage?
2. Do you see the world as “very good”? Why/why not?
3. What do you think might be the implications of us being made “in God’s image”?
4. If humanity is supposed to be “in charge” of the world (under God), what sort of job are we doing, do you think?

**Passage 2:** Revelation 4:6–11

Questions to discuss:

1. What sort of God is described here?
2. What responses do you see in the passage to this God?
3. What does the creation owe to its creator?

For further discussion:

1. Do you believe that a king or a ruler can be truly good?
2. The Bible presents God as both creator or all and ruler of all. What’s the connection between these two ideas, do you think?
3. What does God need from us?

**Putting it together:**

*Summarize the key ideas of the two passages we read in PART 1.*

Questions to discuss:

1. What’s your own reaction to the idea of God being the creator and ruler of the world?
2. Do you ever think of yourself as a “creation” (that is, as having been created by Someone)? How do you feel about this?
3. How do these passages compare with you experience of the world?

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PART 2

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**Passage 1:** Genesis 3:1–6

Questions to discuss:

1. How would you describe the serpent’s strategy for persuading the woman to eat the fruit?
2. What does the fruit symbolize, do you think?
3. What does Eve (and Adam) hope to gain?

For further discussion:

1. How would you summarize humanity’s attitude toward God in this passage?
2. Do you perceive this attitude towards God in your own life and heart? If so, how does it come out?

**Passage 2:** Romans 1:18–25

Questions to discuss:

1. What can all people everywhere know about God?
2. On what basis can they know this?
3. What do people do instead?
4. What are the consequences?

For further discussion:

1. Can you think of ways in which people today worship and serve “created things rather than the Creator”?
2. Do you notice any similarities between this passage and the one from Genesis 3 (about Adam and Eve and the serpent)?
3. Do you think it’s possible to be quite religious and yet still to be rebelling against God our creator?

**Putting it together:**

*Summarize the key ideas of the two passages we read in PART 2.*

Questions to discuss:

1. What do you think is the root cause of the suffering and injustice in our world?
2. Do you see yourself in either of these passages? How would you describe your own relationship with God (the creator and ruler)?
3. What do you think God should do about humanity’s rebellion against Him?

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PART 3

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**Passage 1:** Deuteronomy 29:16–20

Questions to discuss:

1. What attitudes and actions is Moses warning against?
2. What will be the consequences for those who don’t heed the warning?

For further discussion:

1. Do you think it is just and reasonable that God should punish people for rebelling against Him?
2. Anger and zeal are not always good things in our experience. But here God is described as getting angry and zealous. What’s going on, do you think?
3. How do you think the anger of God might relate to the love of God?

**Passage 2:** 2 Thessalonians 1:6–10

Questions to discuss:

1. Who will be punished by whom?
2. Why will they be punished?
3. When will this happen?
4. What is the punishment?

For further discussion:

1. In this passage it’s the “Lord Jesus” who comes bringing punishment on those who oppose Him. How does this square with your picture of who Jesus is?
2. *“People today have a love-hate relationship with the idea of judgement.”* Do you think that’s right? Why/why not?

**Putting it together:**

*Summarize the key ideas of the two passages we read in PART 3.*

Questions to discuss:

1. Given all that we’ve seen so far, what sort of problem does humanity face?
2. What’s your reaction to the Bible’s message about God’s anger and judgement against those who rebel against Him?

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PART 4

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**Passage 1:** Isaiah 53:3–6, 9–10

Questions to discuss:

1. What different words or images does the passage use to describe the problems we face?
2. How would you summarize God’s plan for dealing with these problems?
3. What do we learn about the one who would suffer on behalf of the people?

For further discussion:

1. What does this passage reveal about God’s character?
2. This is a very powerful and emotive passage. How does it make you feel?

**Passage 2:** 1 Peter 2:22–24; 3:18

Questions to discuss:

1. Did Christ deserve to die?
2. Why then did He die?
3. What was achieved by Christ’s death?

For further discussion:

1. According to this passage, how is it possible for people who don’t measure up to God’s standard (“unrighteous” people) to be able to measure up to it (to be “righteous”)?
2. Why is it important or significant that Jesus “committed no sin”?

**Putting it together:**

*Summarize the key ideas of the two passages we read in PART 4.*

Questions to discuss:

1. John Stott wrote: “The essence of sin is man substituting himself for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting Himself for man.” What do you think about this quote?
2. What is the solution to humanity’s biggest problem?
3. What’s your own reaction to the death of Jesus? What does it mean for your life?

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PART 5

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**Passage 1:** Acts 2:22–24, 36–38

Questions to discuss:

1. What were the well-known facts about Jesus’ life and death?
2. What was God’s involvement in Jesus dying and rising again?
3. What does the resurrection of Jesus demonstrate?

For further discussion:

1. What do you think would have been the consequences if Jesus had stayed dead?
2. If Jesus has been made “Lord and Messiah,” what does this mean for our world?
3. If Jesus has been made “Lord and Messiah,” what does this mean for us personally?

**Passage 2:** Acts 17:22–31

Questions to discuss:

1. What is God’s relationship to everyone in the world, regardless of their culture or religion?
2. What new situation is Paul telling the Athenians about?
3. What does Jesus’ resurrection demonstrate?

For further discussion:

1. In our first passage, Peter’s speech was to a Jewish audience (Acts 2). Here in our second passage, Paul is speaking to a very different audience of non-Jewish Greek in Athens. What do the two speeches have in common?
2. What hope does Paul’s speech offer for humanity?
3. This passage is calling on all people everywhere to “repent.” What’s your reaction to that?

**Putting it together:**

*Summarize the key ideas of the two passages we read in PART 5.*

Questions to discuss:

1. Do you think it matters whether Jesus rose from the dead or not?
2. What does the resurrection of Jesus mean for you personally?
3. How do you think your life would be different if you turned back to God?

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PART 6

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**Passage 1:** Matthew 6:24; 7:13–14, 24–27

Questions to discuss:

1. What do these three passages have in common?
2. In the third passage, how would you summarize the two responses to Jesus and His words, and the two outcomes?

For further discussion:

1. What do you think it would mean to “serve” money?
2. What other “masters” do people commonly serve today?
3. What sort of claim is Jesus making here about Himself and His words?
4. To be “narrow” is usually not a good thing in our society. Can “narrow” ever be good?

**Passage 2:** John 3:16–18, 36

Questions to discuss:

1. Why did God send his son into the world?
2. What do we learn about “the world” in this passage?
3. How would you summarize the two possible responses to the Son of God?

For further discussion:

1. When it says that the anger of God “remains” on certain people, why would it be on them in the first place?
2. How would the message of this passage fit together with other parts of the Bible we’ve read so far (e.g. in parts 3 and 4)?
3. What’s the most surprising thing in this passage, do you think?
4. What do you think it would mean to trust and rely on (“believe in”) the Son?

**Putting it together:**

*Summarize the key ideas of the two passages we read in PART 6.*

Questions to discuss:

1. The Bible presents us with a pretty stark choice between two ways of living—basically, God’s way or our way. Which way do you want to live?
2. Which way do you live now?
3. How would living God’s way change your life?