

The logo features the letters 'UC' in a bold, blocky font, followed by a vertical bar, and then the letters 'RIO' in a thin, sans-serif font. All elements are white and centered on a black rectangular background.

UC | RIO

UC University
Core Seminars

Student Handout



Jump Start Schedule

Class 1: Saved by God

Class 2: Living by God's Ways

Class 3: Listening to God

Class 4: Talking to God

Class 5: Meeting with God's Family

Class 6: Meeting the World

Class 7: Living in Hope

Jump Start

Class 1: Saved by God

Introduction

Core Seminar Objective: Introduce the main themes of the Christian life.

Main Question: How do I live as a Christian?

I. Introduction

Why do we begin with this topic?

II. The Bad news about us vs. the Good news of the Gospel

Ephesians 2: 1-3, “As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.”

Apart from Christ, we are:

Titus 3:3, “At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.”

Before our conversion, we are described as:

Summary: Apart from Christ, we are...

- Enslaved to sin (Romans 6:17; John 8:34)
- Blinded in your mind so as not to see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ (II Corinthians. 4:4)
- Deceived (Titus 3:3)
- Hard-hearted and rebellious against God (Ephesians 4:18) (Romans 8:7)
- In our minds, an enemy of God (Colossians 1:21)

III. Salvation is a work initiated by God

Ephesians 2:4-5, “But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved.”

Titus 3:4-5, “But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.”

Summary: “BUT GOD... These two words, in and of themselves, in a sense contain the whole of the gospel.” – ML Jones

IV. Salvation is carried through to completion by God

Romans 8:29-30, “For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.”

Summary: God initiates and completes the work of salvation.

V. Salvation is for God's glory according to His own purposes

Why God does not save us:

- Our righteousness (Titus 3:4-5)
- Our inherent worthiness or qualities (Duet.7:7-8)

God saves us:

- To glorify Himself (I Peter 2:9, Ephesians 1:4-6, 11-12,13b-14)
- According to His purposes (II Timothy 1:9, Eph. 1:4-5)

VI. Practical Application

- Humility (Galatians 6:4, Romans 11:6)
- Assurance of salvation (I Thessalonians 5:23-24, Philippians 1:6, 1 Corinthians 1:8, 2 Corinthians 1:21-22)

Works motivated by love, not fear/pride (Eph. 2:8-10)

Jump Start

Class 2: Living by God's Ways

I. Introduction

Main question: How do we live a life that pleases God?

II. Living by God's Ways...Our Calling

- To declare God's praises (I Peter 2:9)
- To be holy and blameless (Eph. 1:4)
- To do good works (Eph. 2:10)

Given our natural condition apart from Christ, how are we enabled to live a life that pleases God?

III. Living By God's Ways...Three Characteristic of Our New Life in Christ

a. New Nature/Mindset, Romans 8:5-8

“Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.”

What is the primary difference between a Christian and non-Christian?

Why is understanding that we have a new nature/mindset important for living lives that please God?

b. Dead to and Freed from...Sin, Romans 6:1-2, 6-7

“What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?...For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin--because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.”

What is the result of the death of our old self?

Is Paul saying that we don't sin when we become Christians?

c. Conflict between the Spirit and the Flesh, Galatians 5:17-18

“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.”

What does it mean to do battle with sin?

“When Paul says the flesh has been crucified, [he means] that the decisive battle has been fought and won by the Spirit. The Spirit has captured the capital and broken the back of the resistance movement. The flesh is as good as dead. Its doom is sure. But there are outlying pockets of resistance. The guerrillas of the flesh will not lay down their arms and must be fought back daily...” – John Piper

IV. Living by God's Ways... Our Call to Action
Colossians 3:1-14

Is the Christian life a spectator sport?

a. Set your Mind on Things Above, Col. 3:1-4

How do we cultivate a Godly mindset?

Philippians 4:8-9

- Meditate on God's Word
- Obey God's Word

a. Put to Death ALL Things Belonging to the Sinful Nature, Col. 3:5-9

How do we put to death things of our sinful nature?

- Identify the presence of sin
- Pray for deliverance from sin
- Starve the "old man" (the flesh)...daily

c. Clothe Yourself with Christian Virtue, Col. 3:12-14

Which virtue is superior to all others?

- All other virtues flow from _____.

How do we clothe ourselves with Christian virtues?

- Meditate on the Gospel
- Apply the Gospel to situations/relationships

Additional Resources – *Holiness, J.C. Ryle / Keeping Step with the Spirit* by J.I. Packer

Jump Start
Class 3: Listening to God

I. Introduction

Psalm 19 – Two Assumptions

- 1.
- 2.

“I take this to be the greatest poem in the Psalter and one of the greatest lyrics in the world.” C.S. Lewis

II. The Praise of Creation

(vss. 1–6)

What does Creation reveal to us?

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-

Creation also tells us something about what God is like:

- Isaiah 40:25-26 -
- Isaiah 40:28 -
- Psalm 145:9, 15-16 –

Summary: Natural revelation proclaims to all that there is a God who should be worshipped and leaves us all without excuse.

“O wide, embracing, wondrous love, we read you in the sky above; we read you in the earth below, in seas that swell and streams that flow.” Horatius Bonar

III. The Perfection of God’s Word

(vss. 7-11)

Why is God's word so valuable?

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-
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Summary: God's Word, in the Scriptures, is his perfect and the primary means of communicating to us directly.

IV. Our Prayerful Response

(vss. 12–14)

The Implied theology of Psalm 19

1. God's glory, majesty, power and dominion is evident to all through natural revelation in creation. (vss. 1–6; cf. Romans 1)
2. The Scriptures are God's inerrant and infallible special revelation, revealing his righteous requirements and giving to those who obey them life. (vss. 7–11)
3. Man's response to God's revelation, whether natural or special, should be humble repentance and faith. (vss. 12–14)

V. 2 Timothy 3: 14–17– A New Testament Parallel

“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

What is the source of Scripture?

What is the purpose of Scripture?

-
-

VI. Conclusion

- God reveals himself to us through creation (natural revelation) and especially through His word, the Bible (special revelation).
- Creation reveals the character of God.
- The Bible reveals God's righteous claim on our lives, our just condemnation under his Law, and the only way of salvation through Jesus Christ.
- The Scriptures also teach and equip us how to lead a life that is pleasing to God.

Additional Resources – *Fundamentalism and the Word of God* by J.I. Packer; *For the Love of God* by D.A. Carson; “God Told Me So” by Mark Dever in the August 2002 CCR E-newsletter.

Jump Start
Class 4: Talking to God

I. Introduction

Class Objective:

- What is prayer?
- Why should we pray?

II. How Should We Pray

Luke 11:1-13

A. The Lord's prayer (1-4)

Our Father...

Hallowed be your name...

Your kingdom come...

Give us each day our daily bread...

“Prayer is his (God’s) delight because it shows the reaches of our poverty and the riches of his grace. Prayer is that wonderful transaction where the wealth of God’s glory is magnified and the wants of our soul are satisfied.” (John Piper, Pleasures of God, Ch. 8, pg. 216)

Forgive us for we forgive others...

Puritan Thomas Watson says, “It [our forgiving others] is not a cause of God's forgiving us, but a sign. We need not climb up into heaven to see whether our sins are forgiven: let us look into our hearts, and see if we can forgive others. If we can, we need not doubt but God has forgiven us. Our loving others is the reflection of God's love to us.”

Lead us not into temptation...

Principles of Prayer:

1. Prayer is communion with God, who has authority over us and yet is also intimate.
2. It is to be done with God's glory and purposes foremost in our hearts and minds.
3. It is an expression of our dependence upon and trust in God to meet our needs and to protect us from evil.
4. It is to be done in humility, recognizing our need for forgiveness.

A - Adoration
C - Confession
T - Thanksgiving
S - Supplication

B. Parable of the midnight visitor (5-13)

What does this parable teach us about how to approach God in prayer?

Does this mean God gives us everything we want?

What gift should we value above all else?

III. Conclusion

Prayer is a privilege where we convene with the one and only holy God. We are to give praise and honor to our creator and Lord as we come humbly before him seeking his perfect will and

not our own. From the parable we see that we ought to approach God boldly in prayer and that we are to be persistent in asking, seeking, and knocking for God will answer our prayers. He responds not begrudgingly like the man in the parable, but like a gracious Father who desires to give his children the best of gifts, the greatest being the Holy Spirit.

IV Practical Prayer Suggestions

More passages on prayer / parables:

- 1) Philippians 4
- 2) 1 Thessalonians 3
- 3) Matthew 6-7
- 4) Genesis 18
- 5) Ephesians 6
- 6) The book of Psalms

Recommended Reading: Don Carson's *A Call to Spiritual Reformation* / Piper's, *Pleasures of God*, Ch. 8.

Jump Start

Class 5: Meeting with God's Family

I. Introduction

Class Objective:

What is the church?

Universal Church vs. Local Church

- The Universal Church is defined as...

- The Local Church is defined as...

II. Meeting with God's Family: Characteristics of the Local Church

Acts 2:42-47

◆ **Teaching of God's Word**

◆ **Committed Community of Believers** (Acts 4:32-37)

◆ **Christian Fellowship**

◆ **Lord's Supper (Sacraments)**

◆ **Prayer**

◆ **Evident Power of the Spirit**

◆ **Conversions**

III. Why is Commitment to a Local Family of Believers Important for Christians?

- ◆ It's commanded in Scripture
Hebrews 10:25

- ◆ The local church is where the fruits of the Spirit and love for other Christians that evidence the reality of our salvation are most visibly cultivated and witnessed.

- ◆ Promotes spiritual growth and protects against sin
Ephesians 4:11-14

Next Week: Meeting the World

Jump Start
Class 6: Meeting the World

I. Introduction

Key things to remember as we “meet the world”....

We are:

- ◆ In the world but not of the world

- ◆ Members of God’s kingdom

- ◆ To be conformed to Christ

As members of God’s kingdom, we are not passive recipients of all the associated benefits and rewards, but are active participants in advancing God’s purposes here on earth.

II. Meeting the World: Living Faithful Lives

Key Question: How can we be faithful witness to Christ...

- ◆ Speech?

- ◆ Actions?

- ◆ Vocation?

Matthew 5:16 “Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven.”

III. Meeting the World with the Good News

What is evangelism?

a. Why Should We Meet the World with the Good News?

◆

◆

◆

◆

b. If it's good news, why is it difficult to share it with others?

◆

◆

◆

◆

c. Important things to remember in our evangelism

◆

◆



d. Practical considerations to help us be faithful in obeying God's command to share the good news



Jump Start
Class 7: Living in Hope

I. Introduction

What Christian Hope is NOT (1 Cor. 15):

- ◆ It is not worldly.

- ◆ It is not uncertain optimism.

- ◆ It is not religious wishful thinking.

Christian Hope IS:

- ◆ Confident Expectation that God's promises are true.

- ◆ Full Assurance of our Salvation based on the person and work of Jesus Christ.

II. The Basis for Christian Hope

How can Christian hope be confident expectation and full assurance in Christ?

- ◆ The Promises of God

- ◆ The Grace of God

III. Aspects of Christian Hope

Present Reality

- ◆ We still sin.

- ◆ We still experience pain and suffering.

- ◆ Our lives will end.

Aspects of Christian Hope

- ◆ Resurrection from the dead / The return of Christ (I Cor. 15, I Thess. 4:13-18)

- ◆ Sinless perfection (Eph. 1:4, Col. 1:28, Phil. 3:12)

- ◆ No pain or suffering (Rev. 21:4)

- ◆ God's eternal and abiding presence (Rev. 22:4, I Thess. 4:17)

IV. Practical Applications For Living

2 Peter 3

Our confident expectation that God's promises are true and the full assurance of our salvation should help us...

- ◆ Endure temptation (I Peter 5:8-10; Phil. 3:13-15)

- ◆ Live lives of faith and work for God's Glory (Hebrews 11:13-16)

C.S. Lewis, "if you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought the most of the next...it is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that have become so ineffective in this. Aim at heaven and you get Earth 'thrown in': aim at Earth and you will get neither"

Keep us from despair (Romans 8:28-39)



*Course material adapted from <https://www.capitolhillbaptist.org/resources/core-seminars/>