



Rooted: Discovering the Gospel Together

COMMITMENT 3

Teach the Breadth and Depth of the Whole Counsel of God

A SCOPE AND SEQUENCE FOR GOSPEL FORMATION

This handout is a starter list — not exhaustive. It lays out the essential building blocks of basic training for Christian disciples: the breadth-and-depth approach to gospel formation, organized as a scope and sequence around four questions.

1. What Is the Gospel?
2. What Is the Bible and How do we Read it?
3. Do I Know What I Believe?
4. How Now Shall We Live?

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

The Heidelberg Catechism Version

Source: Heidelberg Catechism (1563), selected Q&A.

What Must I Know?

Q1. What is your only comfort in life and death? That you belong, body and soul, in life and death, not to yourself but to your faithful Savior Jesus Christ.

Q2. What must you know to live and die in that comfort? Three things: how great your sin and misery are; how you are delivered from all your sins and misery; how you are to thank God for such deliverance.

What Is Sin?

Q3. How do you come to know your misery? From the law of God.

Q5. Can you keep that law perfectly? No — I am by nature prone to hate God and my neighbor.

Q7. Where does this corrupt nature come from? The fall and disobedience of our first parents, Adam and Eve.

Q8. Are we so corrupt that we can do no good at all? Yes, unless we are regenerated by the Spirit of God.

Q11. Is God not also merciful? Yes, but he is also perfectly just; his justice requires that sin be punished.

Who Is God?

Q25. Since there is but one only divine essence, why do you speak of three persons — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? Because God has so revealed himself in his Word that these three distinct persons are the one, true, eternal God.

Who Is Christ?

Q15. What kind of mediator must we seek? One who is a true and righteous man, yet more powerful than all creatures — that is, one who is also true God.

Q18. Who is this mediator? Our Lord Jesus Christ, given us for complete redemption and righteousness.

Q29. Why is he called Jesus? Because he saves us from our sins.

Q31. Why is he called Christ? Because he is ordained of God the Father, anointed with the Holy Spirit, as our chief Prophet, only High Priest, and eternal King.

What Is Faith?

Q20. Are all people saved through Christ, as all perished in Adam? No — only those grafted into him by true faith.

Q21. What is true faith? A knowledge that holds all God's revelation to be true, and a hearty trust that forgiveness, righteousness, and salvation are freely given by God, out of sheer grace, for Christ's sake alone.

How Can I Be Saved?

Q60. How are you righteous before God? Only by true faith in Jesus Christ: God grants and credits me the perfect righteousness of Christ, as if I had never sinned and had myself fulfilled all obedience — received by faith alone.

Q61. Why do you say you are righteous by faith alone? Not because faith itself earns anything, but because faith is what receives Christ's merit as the ground of righteousness before God.

What Is Grace?

Q86. Since we are saved by grace, why must we still do good works? Because Christ, having redeemed us, renews us by his Spirit to be thankful — so our lives bear fruit and God is glorified.

The arc: comfort (Q1) → misery under the law (Q3–11) → the triune God (Q25) → the God-man mediator (Q12–19) → faith that receives him (Q20–21) → righteousness credited by grace alone (Q60) → a life of gratitude (Q86).

THE ROMAN ROAD · ESV

Romans 3:23 “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 5:8 “but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Romans 5:1 “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Romans 10:9–10 “because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”

Romans 10:13 “For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Romans 8:1 “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

The Ten Essential Truths of the Gospel

Source: Truth78, Family Devotional — 10 Essential Truths of the Gospel.

Truth One. God is the sovereign Creator of all things.

Truth Two. God created people for His glory.

Truth Three. God is holy and righteous.

Truth Four. Man is sinful.

Truth Five. God is just and is right to punish sin.

Truth Six. God is merciful. He is kind to undeserving sinners.

Truth Seven. Jesus is God's holy and righteous Son.

Truth Eight. God put the punishment of sinners on Jesus.

Truth Nine. God offers the free gift of salvation to those who repent and believe in Jesus.

Truth Ten. Those who trust in Jesus will live to please Him and will receive the promise of eternal life—enjoying God forever in heaven.

WHAT IS THE BIBLE, AND HOW DO WE READ IT?

- **What is in the Bible?** 66 books in two testaments — the Old Testament's Law, History, Wisdom, and Prophets; the New Testament's Gospels, History (Acts), Letters, and Revelation — written over roughly 1,500 years by dozens of human authors, inspired by one divine Author.

- **What is the main message of the Bible?** That God is graciously reconciling a people to himself through Jesus Christ — the story runs from creation, through the fall and redemption, to final restoration.
- **How shall I read the Bible?** Prayerfully and attentively, in context, letting each author's own words and intent — not our assumptions — shape our understanding; read for transformation, not just information.
- **Who and what is the Bible about?** Every part of it points to Jesus Christ, Scripture's unifying subject — the one to whom the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings all testify.

The Six-Act Drama of Scripture

The Goheen Version (*Michael Goheen and Craig Bartholomew, The Drama of Scripture*)

1. God Establishes His Kingdom: Creation
2. Rebellion in the Kingdom: Fall
3. The King Chooses Israel: Redemption Initiated
4. The Coming of the King: Redemption Accomplished
5. Spreading the News of the King: The Mission of the Church
6. The Return of the King: Redemption Completed

The Goodwin Version (*Alex Goodwin, Institute for Bible Reading*)

1. God Makes a Temple
2. Rebellion
3. Israel's Calling
4. The Upside-Down Victory of the Unexpected Messiah
5. The Already and the Not Yet
6. God Comes Home

Manuscript Bible Study

The method behind Lindsay Olesberg's The Bible Study Handbook (InterVarsity Press)

A manuscript study works from the passage retyped as a plain manuscript — double-spaced, no verse numbers, no chapter breaks, no headings or study notes — so the group notices the text's own structure instead of borrowing someone else's.

Three convictions behind the method

1. Facts before theories — observe what's there before reaching for a theological grid
2. The author determines meaning — interpret Mark by Mark, not by harmonizing with Luke
3. Understanding requires application — you haven't understood a text until it has acted on you

The three-step process

1. Observe — mark the text for what the author says
2. Interpret — ask what it meant to the original readers, using context and reference tools
3. Apply — respond concretely and personally

What to mark while observing

- Repeated words and phrases
- Contrasts and comparisons
- Logical connectors (therefore, because, but, so that)
- Shifts in time, place, or speaker
- Anything unexpected or unusual

Aim: intimacy with God, Christlike character, and empowerment for mission — not just sharper exegesis.

DO I KNOW WHAT I BELIEVE?

What Are the Essential Doctrines of the Faith?

The Creeds

- The Nicene Creed
- The Apostles' Creed
- The Athanasian Creed

The Confessions *(the Reformed “Three Forms of Unity”)*

- The Heidelberg Catechism
- The Canons of Dordt
- The Belgic Confession

The Five Solas

- ***Sola Scriptura*** — Scripture Alone
- ***Sola Fide*** — Faith Alone
- ***Sola Gratia*** — Grace Alone
- ***Solus Christus*** — Christ Alone
- ***Soli Deo Gloria*** — To God Alone Be the Glory

HOW NOW SHALL WE LIVE?

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS · EXODUS 20

1. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not make for yourself an idol.
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet.

THE BEATITUDES · MATTHEW 5:3–12

- Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
- Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
- Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
- Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.
- Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
- Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
- Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

THE LORD'S PRAYER · MATTHEW 6:9–13

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”

The Life with God Practices

Nine everyday practices, under four pillars, for a life shaped by the gospel.

1. **Hospitality** (*Welcome*) We practice hospitality because God has welcomed us into his family.
2. **Spiritual Friendship** (*Welcome*) We cultivate spiritual friendships because God in Christ has reconciled us.
3. **Rest & Renewal** (*Worship*) We participate in rhythms of rest and renewal because God has rested.

4. **Worship** (*Worship*) We worship God because he is worthy.
5. **Prayer** (*Worship*) We spend time with God in prayer because he is listening.
6. **Generosity** (*Worship*) We give generously because God gives good gifts.
7. **Word** (*Word*) We hear and respond to God's word because he is speaking.
8. **Witness** (*Witness*) We share the gospel because Jesus is good news.
9. **Work** (*Witness*) We work to the glory of God and for the good of our neighbor because God is building his kingdom.

This is the church-and-home half of the scope and sequence — see Life with God Kids for how each practice plays out at home and in our ministries.



SEVEN COMMITMENTS

Embrace a biblical vision for the faith of the next generation.
Foster a robust partnership between church and home.
Teach the breadth and depth of the whole counsel of God. — *this week*
Proclaim the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ.
Disciple the mind, heart, and will.
Pray with dependence on God's sovereign grace.
Inspire worship of God, for the glory of God.