

Group Meeting

Welcome!

Welcome to Session 1 of *Believe*. If this is your first time together as a group, take a moment to introduce yourselves to each other before watching the video. Then, feel free to get started!

VIDEO TEACHING NOTES

As you watch the video segment for Session 1, use the following outline to record some of the main points. (The answer key is found at the end of the session.)

- A. W. Tozer wrote, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." Why? Because this mind-set—or absence of it—will drive all we _____ and all we _____.
- Key Question: Who is _____?
- "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 _____." (Romans 1:20)
- Key Idea: I believe the God of the Bible is the one _____—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- God is three persons who _____ a being.
- "Then God said, _____ make mankind in our image, in our likeness ... So God created mankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." (Genesis 1:26–27)
- One of the biggest failures for humanity, beginning with the fall of Adam and Eve, is when we try to take over the role of _____ in our lives.
- (Key Application) Because God is God ... I am _____ ... He is in _____ and in control ... I want to know and follow his _____ for my life.
- (Key Application) Because I was created in the image of God and for community ... I recognize others' full _____ and respect boundaries ... I look out for the rights, preferences, and _____ of others ... I _____ and enjoy others.

GETTING STARTED

Begin your discussion by reciting the Key Verse and Key Idea together as a group. On your first attempt, use your notes if you need help. On your second attempt, try them completely from memory.

KEY VERSE: "May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."
(2 Corinthians 13:14)



KEY IDEA: I believe the God of the Bible is the one true God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

GROUP DISCUSSION

As a group, discuss your thoughts and feelings about the following declarations. Which are more challenging, and which are easier to declare with certainty?

- I believe the God of the Bible is the one true God.
- I believe the God of the Bible is one in essence but distinct in person—Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- I believe Jesus is God in flesh—who died and rose bodily from the dead.
- I believe the Holy Spirit is God and dwells in Christians to empower them to live the Christian life.

Based on your group's dynamics and spiritual maturity, choose the 2–3 questions that will lead to the best discussion about this week's Key Idea.

1. If you only had two minutes to answer the question, "Who is God?" how would you respond?
2. How does your understanding of God impact your day-to-day decisions?

3. What are the most common reasons people struggle to believe that the God of the Bible is the one true God? What helped you get past these obstacles? Or, what obstacles are you still facing?

Read Luke 3 (see the section "God in Three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit" in Believe) and choose 1–2 questions that will lead to the greatest discussion in your group.

1. In what ways is the Trinity a challenging concept to comprehend?
2. If God (the Trinity) is a community within himself, and we are made in his image, what does that tell us about ourselves?
3. How does today's culture help or hinder us from experiencing the community we were created for?
4. What specific actions can this group undertake to create healthy community?

CASE STUDY

Use the following case study as a model for a real-life situation where you might put this week's Key Idea into practice.

Mike is one of your favorite coworkers. He is funny, hardworking, and passionate about life. As a new Christian, he comes to you seeking help, because he and his wife are struggling. They are constantly butting heads, arguing, and simply not getting along. Mike thinks it is just easier to walk away but really wants to know what you think.

Using the Key Applications from this session, what gentle advice would you give him needed, refer to your video notes for a reminder of this session's Key Applications.)

CLOSING PRAYER

Close your time together with prayer. Share your prayer requests with one another. Ask God to help you put this week's Key Idea into practice.

JOURNAL

If your church is doing the *Believe* church-wide campaign, bring this study guide to church and use the following space to take notes from the pastor's or teacher's message. If your church provides an outline, consider keeping it with this guide so you will have all of your notes and thoughts from your *Believe* journey in one place.