

# *Systematic* THEOLOGY

## 8 Week Study

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### **Overview**

Systematic Theology is the study of what the Bible teaches us about any given topic. It helps us to understand key concepts about God, humanity, the church and the future.

### **How to Study**

Using Pathways Bible College Lectures, Wayne Grudem's Systematic Theology textbook, or Wayne Grudem's Bible Doctrine textbook, you can engage in personal study to then discuss and share learnings and questions as a Life Group. About an hour of study is necessary each week outside of Life Group time.

To sign up to Pathways Lectures, make an account through this link:

<https://ondemand.pathways.ac.nz/user/create/>

Wayne Grudem's Bible Doctrine - [Fishpond](#)

Wayne Grudem's Systematic Theology - [Fishpond](#) or can be purchased from The Street Church (email [office@thestreet.org.nz](mailto:office@thestreet.org.nz) for details).

## Outline

Pathways Lecture Videos	Bible Doctrine by Wayne Grudem	Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem
<b>1. Introduction</b>		
Section 1: Module 1 Module 2	Ch. 1	Ch. 1
<b>2. The Word of God</b>		
Section 2: Module 1 Module 2	Ch. 2 (Optional 3)	Ch. 4-8
<b>3. The Character of God: Incommunicable Traits</b>		
Section 3: Module 1 Module 2 Module 3 Module 4	Ch. 4	Ch. 11 (Optional 9-10)
<b>4. The Communicable Attributes of God &amp; The Trinity</b>		
Section 3: Module 5 Module 6 Module 7	Ch. 5-6	Ch. 12-14
<b>5. Prayer</b>		
Section 4: Module 1 Module 2 Module 3	Ch. 9	Ch. 18



<b>6. The Atonement</b>		
Section 5: Module 1 Module 2 Module 3 Module 4 (Optional 5-7)	Ch. 15 (Optional 14)	Ch. 27 (Optional 26)
<b>7. Resurrection &amp; Ascension</b>		
There are no lecture videos corresponding to the Resurrection & Ascension. This is covered in Section 5.	Ch. 16	Ch. 28
<b>8. The Future - The Return of Christ: When &amp; How?</b>		
Section 6: Module 1 Module 2 Module 3 Module 4 Module 5 Module 6 Module 7	Ch. 31 (Optional 32-34)	Ch. 54 (Optional 55-57)

## Discussion Guidelines

Within your group, you will likely find variances in interpretation of the text based on tradition and upbringing. It's helpful to have some ground rules for how your group will engage with these topics.

- Come with humility, no one is the expert
- Come expecting that God will speak through one another
- Not saying anything doesn't mean you agree with something
- Saying you disagree, or giving another perspective is great - we do this in love and we do this to grow!



# *Systematic* **THEOLOGY**

## **Week 1 • Introduction**

What is Systematic Theology?

Why should Christians study it?

How should we study it?

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1. What stood out from Chapter 1?
2. Thinking about the next topic, The Word of God, what do you already know? What questions do you have?
3. Of the topics coming up, what are you most intrigued by? What do you already know? What are you excited to learn more about?
4. What other resources might be helpful in your learning?
5. Spend some time praying for each other.



# *Systematic* **THEOLOGY**

## **Week 2 • The Word of God**

How do we know the Bible is God's Word?

Are there any errors in the Bible?

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1. What stood out to you in your study this week?
2. Authority: Is there anything in the Bible that you find hard to believe? What do you think is the best way to approach this?
3. Authority: Do you know people who have a very liberal view of faith? What would you say to them after learning about the authority of God's word?
4. Inerrancy: Why is the idea of inerrancy so important? And why do people in today's modern era focus on it so much? (Today, many people view truth as subjective. If the Bible is inerrant, then it is objectively true).

5. Inerrancy: How can the idea of inerrancy encourage us?
  
6. Clarity: What do you think about the statement that 'people can make the Bible say anything they want'? How can we gain more clarity to know we are interpreting the Bible correctly?
  
7. Necessity: If we can know God is real without reading the Bible, then why is the Bible necessary?
  
8. Sufficiency: Are there any topics you wish the Bible talked more about? What do we do in this scenario?

# *Systematic* **THEOLOGY**

## **Week 3 • Character of God: Incommunicable Attributes**

How do we know that God exists?

Can we really know God?

How is God different from us?

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1. Read out passages: Romans 1:20, Acts 14:16-17, Psalm 19:1-2
  - What do they tell us about God and His existence?
  - What do they tell us about people?
  - Before you came to know God, what was your experience of the existence of God?
2. Throughout history, do you think most people have believed in God? If belief in God exists, why do you think there is a disconnect to worship him?
3. What are incommunicable attributes? Have a go at explaining them to each other in pairs. What are some of them?

4. Independence: Why do we think God created us if he doesn't need us?
  
5. Eternal: “God has no beginning and no end, or succession of moments....” How does this form your view of God? What do you think about this?
  
6. Eternal: If God sees all of time visibly at one time, how does this help us in hardship? Does this change how we should live or perceive our life?
  
7. Omnipresence: If God is present everywhere, how can He be present in Hell?



# *Systematic* **THEOLOGY**

## **Week 4 • Communicable Attributes of God & The Trinity**

How is God like us?

How can God be three persons, yet one God?

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1. Did any of the communicable attributes stand out to you more than others?
2. How does it make you feel knowing that we are also spiritual beings? What can we do to think more of the spiritual world, rather than the physical world?
3. Why can't we see God now?
4. God's knowledge gives us hope! We don't need to hide anything because He knows us completely, yet still loves us. So, if God knows everything about us, how does this change the way we pray?
5. Being 'Holy' means to be set apart in an endless pursuit of Christ. Whatever conforms to God's moral character is right. Are there things in your life that halt you in that holy pursuit?

6. What's the most fascinating thing you learnt about the Trinity when studying this chapter?
  
7. What analogies have you believed about the trinity? How do you picture the trinity now after reading this chapter?
  
8. How would you explain the trinity to a not yet believer? Practice it in pairs.



# *Systematic* **THEOLOGY**

## **Week 5 • Prayer**

Why does God want us to pray?

How can we pray effectively?

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This week, spend the first half of the time discussing your learning using these questions, then go through the ACTS prayer tool. Spend the last half of your time actually practicing it! Come back together and share how you found it.

1. In your group, try to summarise or retell the chapter.
2. Why do we pray? What is effective prayer?
3. Does prayer change the way God acts? Where have we seen that in the Bible or in our own testimonies? Does prayer change God's plan for us?
4. Share in pairs, what are some stories in your life of answered prayer? When have been the most effective times of prayer in seasons of your life?



# ACTS Prayer

As we learn to be people of prayer, it may be helpful to use the ACTS formula. This simple tool guides us to worship, confess and give thanks before we bring our list of requests and needs to the Lord. It reminds us to lift our eyes!

## **Adoration**

This is what I tell God I love, adore and appreciate about Him. We begin by worshiping God for who He is. Firstly because we are created to glorify God and secondly because we gain clarity when we are reminded of who God is. A helpful way to do this is going through A-Z finding a word that describes God, e.g. A - Almighty, B - Beautiful...

## **Confession**

This is what I tell God that I am sorry for, and agree with God about all things he says about me, about the world and about His plans. Ask God to search your heart and reveal any hidden sin that you have overlooked. Agree with God about sin and righteousness. Let His Word do its purifying work within you.

## **Thanksgiving**

This is what I give thanks to God for. This is different to adoration which is about who God is, whereas thanksgiving is about what God has done.

## **Supplication**

This is what I am asking God for. This is the time to cast your cares to God. Whatever you're worried about, pour out your heart to Him, and ask Him to move in a mighty way. We can do this because our Father is a God who listens and cares.

# *Systematic* **THEOLOGY**

## **Week 6 • The Atonement**

Was it necessary for Christ to die?

What really happened in the atonement?

Did Christ descend into hell?

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1. Before reading this chapter, what did you think the Atonement meant? What stood out to you?
2. Looking from the outside in, it could be viewed as violent that God killed his own son. How can we explain this? (In pairs).
3. If Jesus bore the wrath of God, why do we still experience difficulties and suffering?
4. Jesus knew what was coming, and he knew the Atonement wasn't necessary, that's why He says 'if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will' in Matthew 26:39. What does this say about Jesus, and how does this apply in our lives today? (In pairs).

5. Jesus' active and passive obedience both contributed to the Atonement.
  - What do both of these ideas mean?
  - Do you find obedience difficult?
  - What can we learn from Jesus about being obedient? (In pairs).
  
6. Has reading this chapter given you more or less confidence that Jesus has paid your sins? Why?
  
7. Knowing that Christ has redeemed us from the bondage of sin and we are made righteous through Him, how does this change your perspective on the way you live? (In pairs).

# *Systematic* **THEOLOGY**

## **Week 7 • Resurrection and Ascension**

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1. In pairs, give three reasons for the significance of Christ's resurrection. What implications does this have?
2. What did you grow up believing about our resurrection bodies?
  - Is what you thought true?
  - What things would you like to do but are limited by weaknesses and limitations of your physical body?
  - Do you think you will do them in heaven?
3. If the resurrection and ascension gives each of us power to obey Christ and power in our ministry - how do we see this at work?
4. How does this make you think about eternity? About the spiritual battle?
5. Acts 1 teaches about Jesus showing himself to his disciples in his resurrection body and then His ascension to heaven. Do a Discovery Bible Study (DBS) on Acts 1:1-11.



# How to do a Discovery Bible Study (DBS)

## Scripture

### Read & Retell

- One person reads the Bible passage aloud, and the rest follow along.
- The group retells the passage by memory, if possible.

### Look

- Read the passage aloud again.
- Discuss what this passage says about God (Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit) or His plan.

### Look again

- Read the passage out loud once more.
- Discuss what this passage says about people.

## Application

### Follow

- According to this study, what am I doing well?
- What from today's passage does God want me to obey?  
The step I will take this week:

### Fish

- Who will I share this with this week?

## Commission

Pray and ask God for his power to help you fish and follow.

# *Systematic* **THEOLOGY**

## **Week 8 • The Future: The Return of Christ**

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1. What stood out to you in your study this week?
2. Before studying the return of Christ, did you believe Christ could return at any time? If your viewpoint has changed what effect does this have on your life?
3. If you don't have a strong yearning for Christ to return, what factors in your life contribute to this?

*Lecture Videos discuss the following areas and the 'optional' Chapters 32-34 in Bible Doctrine.*

4. What are key markers of the rapture?
5. What are key markers of the tribulation?
6. What are key markers of the judgment seat of Christ?
7. How can the return of Christ encourage believers today?