

Rebar: Reinforcing the Stuff that Counts

A 10-Week Study on the Foundations of the Christian Faith at Kettlebrook

Curriculum Layout:

Week of:

1. What is the Bible?	02/07/2010
2. What is God like?	02/14/2010
3. What is the Trinity?	02/21/2010
4. Who is Christ?	02/28/2010
5. What is Man?	03/07/2010
6. What is Sin?	03/14/2010
7. What is Death?	03/21/2010
8. What is the Atonement?	03/28/2010
9. What is the Resurrection?	04/04/2010
10. What does it mean to become a Christian?	04/11/2010

Introduction:

“Rebar” is our first attempt at Kettlebrook to do a community-wide small group study. We understand how stretched our lives can be and at times, we find ourselves being pulled in different directions. We look at one part of the Bible on Sunday mornings... we may be studying something different in our small groups...and maybe even something else in personal study and prayer. In an effort to spend some focused time together as a community, we have developed “Rebar.” No matter where you are on your journey, it is our prayer that through interacting with the basics of the faith you may encounter the living God in new and profound ways.

Format:

This curriculum is intended to augment the sermon series entitled “Rebar” which will be delivered at both Kettlebrook sites between February 7, 2010 and April 11, 2010. While hearing these sermons will not be absolutely critical to participation in this study, it will be helpful. The study is designed to be used as a complement to each message topic and discussed the week after the message was delivered. If you are unable to hear the messages live, they will be available for download online (usually by Sunday evening) at: <http://www.kettlebrook.org/resources/index.htm> or via Podcast on iTunes.

This curriculum is also intended to be augmented by the book entitled *Christian Beliefs* by Wayne A. Grudem. This book is a wonderfully condensed guide to the topics that will be addressed. In approximately 5 short pages per topic, Grudem presents each issue in easy to understand terms. In preparation for each small group discussion, it is strongly encouraged that everyone read the corresponding chapter.

With over 30 small groups in our community, we realize the diversity that is represented. Not only do our groups contain people at varying places on their journeys, our groups also are led by leaders who each lead according to the gifts they have been given. This curriculum has been designed with this diversity in mind.

“Rebar” contains 7 elements:

- **From Sunday** – a brief discussion of the takeaways from the message
- **From Your Perspective** – a chance to examine where you are with each topic discussed and explore how you got there
- **From the Skeptic** – a chance to ask and discuss questions that each issue raises
- **From the Bible** – a chance to look at Scripture’s perspective on the issue
- **From the Book** – a chance to, with Grudem’s help, summarize the topic
- **Moving Forward** – a look at how each issue can practically change our lives
- **Digging Deeper** – resources that you may find helpful if you are interested in going further in your exploration of the topic

Week 1:

What is the Bible?

In Preparation for Small Group Discussion:

1. Listen to the message given at Kettlebrook on February 7, 2010 either live or on the web at: <http://www.kettlebrook.org/resources/index.htm> or via podcast on iTunes.
2. Read chapter 1 (pages 13-20) in Wayne Grudem's *Christian Beliefs*.
3. Prepare your responses to the questions presented here in this study.

From Sunday:

What was the main point of the message?

How will this practically change your life?

From Your Perspective:

When someone says "The Bible" what comes to mind? What are your first reactions and why?

What role, if any, has the Bible played in your life up to this point?

From the Skeptic:

Below are some comments that reflect a skeptical perspective of the Bible. Underline comments that might reflect thoughts that you have had about the Bible at some point in your life?

- “The Bible was written way after any of that stuff ever happened.”
- “There is no evidence that what the Bible says happened actually happened.”
- “The Bible is just one of many religious books... each pointing in it’s own way to the same God.”
- “The Bible is full of contradictions.”
- “The Bible is not relevant for my life.”
- “The Bible was not written by God, but by men... fallible men...with their own agendas.”
- “The Bible is good literature, just like any ancient mythology, but nothing more.”
- (create your own here) “

_____”

Why did you underline the comments you did?

When many people read the Bible, they might say that it is “empty” or that it doesn’t speak to them. If this describes you, how would you respond to the following question... “Why does the Bible seem to be not speaking to me?” or “Why does it seem empty to me?”

From the Bible:

In the New Testament, we find the apostle Paul wrote two letters of encouragement to his younger friend and fellow church planter Timothy. In his second letter to Timothy, Paul refers to the significance of the “holy Scriptures.” Take some time to read this in 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

What do you think Paul is trying to communicate to Timothy in this passage?

What do you think it means for Paul to say that “All Scripture is God-breathed?”

If Scripture is “God breathed” what should our attitude be towards it?

How does Paul find Scripture to be practical?

Do you use Scripture in any of these ways?

How can Scripture equip us “for every good work?”

From the Book

In chapter 1, Grudem describes Scripture as having four characteristics. What are these characteristics and how would you describe them in your own words?

1.

2.

3.

4.

Moving Forward

Is it possible that as early as today the Bible could change your life... and if so how?

What is one realistic way for you to engage with the Bible in the next week?

For you, what are some of the biggest barriers to the Bible impacting your life? What steps would you want to take to remove these barriers?

How can the group help you in this?

Digging Deeper:

Some other passages that you may want to explore include:

- Numbers 23:19 – God never lies
- Nehemiah 8:1-18 – Israel rediscovers God’s Word and celebrates
- Psalm 1 – God’s word as the foundation of our lives and all 150 psalms
- Psalm 119:1-16 – The longest of all psalms and a celebration of God’s law
- Isaiah 66:1-2 – God delights in those who tremble at his Word
- Matthew 4:4 – God’s Word is the bread of life
- Luke 1:1-4 – Luke talks about his work in authentically and accurately recording Scripture
- 2 Peter 1:20-21 – God has spoken through prophets by the Holy Spirit

Some other messages that you may want to listen to include:

- The Verdict (Parts 1,2&3) by Andy Stanley at:
http://startingpoint.com/members_audio_res.jsp

Some books that you may want to explore (and are available in the KBC office) include:

- *The Old Testament Documents: Are they Reliable and Relevant?* by Walt Kaiser Jr. (ISBN # 0-8308-1975-4)
- *The New Testament Documents: Are they Reliable?* by F.F. Bruce (ISBN # 0-8308-2736-6)