

THE 49-DAY JOURNEY

A Higher Perspective To Living A Biblically Based Life



SESSION 6 - Renewing Your Mind In The Truth



SESSION 6

Renewing Your Mind In The Truth

As we enter the sixth week of our study, we are focusing on practical ways to live free of cultural captivity, the accepted ways of thinking and acting in our society. Satan working through our society is relentless; never letting up on barraging our minds with the way we should think in this post-modern world. How can we develop our defenses against his constant attacks so that we can focus our attention on sharing the eternal good news with others?

FAST FACTS

How common is it for people to profess a different religious affiliation in 2020 than the one they grew up under as a child?

- About three out of four (73%) adults under the age of 40 who said their family affiliated with a Protestant or Catholic church as a child still currently affiliate with a Christian church of some type. Thus, about one fourth of these children no longer affiliate with a Christian church.
- Americans under 40 who currently express being born-again Protestants represent about one in six (16%) of our population. Of these born-again Protestants, over half (58%) were Evangelicals as children while about one in four were Mainline Protestants, one in ten were Catholics and the rest either Other Religions or Unaffiliated.
- Americans under 40 who currently express being Unaffiliated represent almost one in three (29%) of our population. Of these current Unaffiliated, more than one in three (40%) were Unaffiliated as children while another one in three (33%) were



SESSION 6 THEME

By feeding on God's
truth found in the
Bible and applying it,
we can live
transformed lives;
lives whose value will
echo through eternity.



Protestants, one in five (19%) were Catholics and the rest (8%) were Other Religions. So, we see a large majority, 60%, of the Unaffiliated did not grow up in a home that professed to be Unaffiliated.

PRIOR TO THIS WEEK'S SESSION

- Participate in the experience by reading a chapter a day in your Periscope book. This week the assignment is Chapters 36 through 42.
- Read/Listen to the daily email messages you will receive from Periscope this week.
- Read this week's Facilitator's Guide Session 6 in preparation for leading the session. Mark the time you want to start each major part of the outline. Within each activity, mark the questions that you want to have your group discuss.

LEADING THE SMALL GROUP SESSION

Begin with whatever fellowship time (if any) you normally include in your small group time. Begin the session by asking one of the group members to lead in a prayer specifically asking for God's presence and leadership during this time. Pray that we will be open to God's word recorded in Scripture as a guiding light for our lives. Pray that the Bible will be more than a holy book; that it will be God's truth to guide our thoughts and actions.



Press **Play** on this Teaser Video – *Connected to the Power*. Once it starts press **Pause** when you reach the questions at the beginning.

The Questions below in **Blue** appear exactly as they do in the videos. The Material in brackets are additional information to help you lead the discussions.

Opening Warm Up Questions - Session 6

1. If you had to leave your home suddenly never to return, what are the top three things you would try to take with you (family members are excluded)?

Press Play to continue the video. At the end the Discussion Questions will appear.

Group Teaser Questions

2. Have you ever been on an outing and realized that your phone's battery was not going to last and you had forgotten your charger?
 - How did you feel knowing you were going to be disconnected from family and friends that might need to reach you?
3. If the Word of God is our power source, what are things we can do to make sure we are fully charged and ready to go?
4. Ask someone to share an experience where knowing what the Bible says made a difference in dealing with a life situation?

Close the Video Window

BODY OF SESSION

35 - 55 minutes



Press this **Play Button** to start the Teaching Video for Session 6
It is called *Renewing Your Mind in the Truth*.

WARNING: 1) Be prepared to Press Pause when the First Set of Discussion Questions appear before the 3:30 minute mark. Rewind if necessary.

Group Discussion Questions

1. Read Romans 12:2 & Eph. 2:10. (In Periscope Chapter 36)
 - How can we be 'his workmanship' and yet still have the possibility of being 'conformed to this present world'?
 - Do we need to continually renew our mind if we are going to walk in the good works God has prepared for us? [Chapter 36 of Periscope begins with Romans 12:2 "*Do not be conformed to this present world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may test and approve what is the will of God—what is good and well-pleasing and perfect.*"]
2. Read Phil. 1:9-11. Discernment is the ability to apply our knowledge to new situations. If we are not to be fooled by the world's lie, we need spiritual discernment.
 - To be prepared for the day of Christ, what does our discernment need to produce in our lives?
 - Can you think of an example where discernment is needed to apply

the truth of Christ to a worldly situation? [*“And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”* How can you reconcile these verses with what was said in the verses immediately preceding these? What is the key thought in these verses to living an eternal life that brings glory to God?]

3. Do you think many Christians today are biblically illiterate? How can you discern biblical illiteracy? • Is it possible to encounter areas where you feel illiterate and then go to the Bible to gain knowledge?

PRESS PLAY on the Video to continue. 1) The questions at the end have 2 sets. 2) HIT PAUSE when you reach the questions near the end. 3) When you complete those questions, PRESS PLAY and let it run to the end. After completing those questions, close the video window. Rewind if necessary.

Group Discussion Questions

4. Read 2 Tim. 3:16-17. • What does it mean to say that Scripture is “breathed out by God”? • If a passage of Scripture has ever reproofed or corrected them, ask one or two to share about their experience. [The key verse in this section is 2 Timothy 3:16-17 *“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”*]
5. Read Ephesians 2:10. If we are “created for good works”, why do we need to be “equipped for every good work”? [Ephesians 2:10 says that in Christ we are created ‘for good works’ while the passage above says that we may be ‘equipped for every good work’. How do these concepts work together to give us a complete picture of God’s work in the lives of Christians.]
6. Read 2ND Peter 1:3-4. Can we have a knowledge of Him and His precious and very great promises without a working understanding of the Bible? • To escape from the corruption of the world what do we need to do? [Periscope Chapter 41 points to the result of knowing Christ as expressed in 2ND Peter 1:3-4: *“His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge*

of him who called us to his own glory and excellence by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.”

7. How did the man in the video know the painting was going to turn out looking like Jesus? • How can we make sure our actions paint a picture of Jesus Christ when viewed by those around us? • Is the total picture painted by us alone or do we require others in the body of Christ to create a full view of Christ?
8. Can we do it alone or do we need others within the church to come along side us?

Close the Video Window

CLOSING THOUGHTS 8 - 15 minutes

“Into my weakness, into my darkness your Spirit’s moving upon my heart and You speak the words, ‘Let there be Light’ Into my chaos comes Your promise the new is rising, the old has passed on You are reviving and making all things right.” God has changed our chaos into order. He is reviving us and making our lives to be examples of His righteousness as we let His word bear fruit in us.

Let’s pray that we will daily recognize our need to be refreshed through the study of God’s word to us. If we are to stand in freedom against the mind-numbing force of cultural captivity, we need to wield the sword of the Spirit taking every thought captive in obedience to Christ.

FOLLOW UP TO SMALL GROUP SESSION

Pray for any prayer requests or concerns brought up in your group.

Think about the session. What went well? What seemed to fall flat?

NEXT WEEK - RENEWING IN THE TRUTH

Next week, your group is going to be talking about living out our true purpose on this earth. This topic will undoubtedly bring attacks from the prince of this world; who does not want us to walk in freedom in Christ carrying out His purpose.

Pray against the schemes of Satan and pray that our small group members will grasp their role in God’s big plan for the ages.