

Summer Survival Pack

Cru At UNC

Let's face it. **Summers can pose a major challenge to our faith and obedience to Christ.** It can be a very spiritually isolating time because you are away from the environment and friends that have helped you grow spiritually this past school year. It can be a dangerous time to your faith and your future. But it also can be a great opportunity to see your faith tested and increase and an opportunity to make some key steps on your own. **You can make some decisions now that¹ will put you in a position of advantage and strength as you go into the summer.** As a Christian, we can embrace challenges because we recognize the opportunity to trust God in new ways and see our faith grow in ways that we would have never seen otherwise. **Now is the time to act.** How can you prepare to meet the spiritual challenges that the summer will bring? Three key essential elements will help you be "more than a summer survivor".

Essential #1 – Self-Discipline

Discipline plays a key role to the extent that God can consistently work in your life. We will never rise from a life of sporadic spiritual growth that is dependent upon certain events or circumstances to a steady spiritual maturity until we learn how to order our lives around our most valued convictions. Discipline is the ability to order one's own life to live according to what one has determined to accomplish or achieve. What would you like to see God do in your life this summer? To be a faithful disciple on a steady basis requires that we develop personal discipline. It means that we make choices about what is important and what we are going to invest our time in. God has already given you His Spirit, a Spirit of self-control and discipline (2 Timothy 1:7). Ask God to develop within you the fruits of self-discipline this summer.

How To Do This:

Practically, what this means is that you make choices now as to what you are going to commit Yourself to this summer. It means saying "yes" to habits and activities that will help you to grow Spiritually and saying "no" to the habits and activities that could potentially drag you down.

1. The first step to becoming disciplined is to **determine your own common pitfalls and obstacles** that will keep you from reaching your desired end and goal (Hebrews 12:1). Are you involved in a good church back home or do you know of one? What temptations will you face in your environment? What is your current relationship like with your parents? Other obstacles could be laziness, working a lot of hours (not a bad thing but something you need to plan for).

2. **Make a list of priorities** of things you want to accomplish on a daily and weekly basis. Priorities are always based upon what we value above other values – what we value most. How we spend our resources (time, money relationships, etc.) reveal where our priorities are. Self-discipline must draw upon your own convictions of what has the most value in your life. We have included a resource called "Priorities and Summer Covenant" to help you do this.

3. **Develop a schedule and stick to it.** Make sure you are putting in your priorities first.

Otherwise they can get squeezed out by a lot of filler. For most of us, we don't plan to fail but we fail to plan.

Essential #2 – The Right Fellowship

How much do you think you imitate your friends? Maybe not consciously, but it's incredible how much we pick up and emulate the attitudes, values and behaviors of those we spend our time with. We also influence those around us in the same way. The influence of our friends and companions can be destructive if it's the wrong influence. Spending too much time with the wrong people this summer can have a disastrous consequences to your faith and even the rest of your life. It is not a coincidence that **often the major periods of spiritual growth in our lives are also times of rich Christian fellowship**. In Acts 2:42 we read, *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship*" and in verse 46, *"Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts"*. **Fellowship, like with the early Christians, is something you have to be devoted to as a priority in your life**. One of your major priorities this summer needs to be a way to be around other committed Christians, spending quality and quantity time with them.

How To Do This:

1. **Get involved in a good church at home**. Look for a church that teaches a high view of Christ, His work on the cross and His resurrection, and a high view of the authority of Scripture. Also look for a community that demonstrates love for one another and for the lost. Then talk to the pastor or youth pastor and ask how you could best get involved with the church over the summer. Get fed spiritually but also give of yourself.
2. **Keep in touch with your friends from Campus Crusade over the summer**. E-mail can be a great help in doing this. Also **get together with others that may live around you** for times of prayer, Bible study or just having fun and fellowship together. You could plan a weekend to get together to go camping with those who live in neighboring towns or would be willing to take a road trip. You may know some **other committed Christian friends** where you will be. Make it a priority to spend time together with them.
3. If you don't have any committed Christian friends around you where you will be going, you can still fellowship with some mature and influential Christians. **You can fellowship with Christians through reading their books or listening to their tapes**. Included in this packet is a suggested reading list. Make it a priority to spend regular time reading. It could have a tremendous impact on your life and faith.

Don't Go Through the Summer Alone

God created you to need people in your life and people will influence you one way or another. Satan wants you isolated from the influence, camaraderie and companionship of other committed Christians this summer. You have not been given the task of being the Lone Ranger Christian. You need others in your life to keep you spiritually sharp.

Essential #3 – Daily Time With God and His Word

The number one priority in your summer, as in all of your life, must be fellowship with God. Seek to know Him, love Him and serve Him. We do that primarily through submitting our hearts to Him and “listening” to His Word. We cannot know God intimately without knowing the Word of God. His Word is the Spirit’s food that nourishes our soul. Our faith and the work of his Holy Spirit depend upon a constant diet spending time in the Bible.

How to Do This:

Set aside, as a daily priority, at least 30 minutes, but better yet, 45 minutes to an hour to spend time alone with God in praise, prayer and the reading of and “listening to His Word. We have included several resources in this packet to assist you in this endeavor.

God has given you both the resources and responsibility to pursue and plan for your own spiritual growth this summer and effectively resist temptation. His grace is sufficient and He gives you the adequate resources to meet each day’s challenge as you depend on Him and walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Summer Covenant

Identify your Daily Priorities below:

Identify your Weekly Priorities below:

Write a Covenant Below Based on Your Priorities

Example:

1. Spend at least 30 minutes each day in Bible study and prayer. Enclosed are several resources you can use like: Meeting with God, a New Testament reading plan and the Attributes of God.
2. Try to find an accountability partner from campus to pray with, study God's word and talk regularly about your summer struggles, successes and what God's doing in your life.
3. Attend a church each Sunday where Christ is honored and I'm encouraged to take steps of faith.

My Covenant

This is just between you and God

During the summer, I plan to do the following:

Signed,

Summer Reading List

Good Books to Read This Summer

Reading has changed my life. I wish I read way more when I was in college though. Pick some books up this summer and you will greatly benefit. (Amazon hyperlinks can be followed if using this on-line)

Seeing God Rightly

[Knowing God](#), J.I. Packer

[God the Father, God the Son](#), Martyn Lloyd Jones

[God the Holy Spirit](#), Martyn Lloyd Jones

[The Attributes of God](#), A.W. Pink

[Knowledge of the Holy](#), A.W. Tozer

[Seeing and Savoring Jesus](#), John Piper

[For the Love of God](#), D.A. Carson (daily companion to read through the Bible in a year)

See Yourself Rightly

[Changes that Heal](#), Henry Cloud

[Abba's Child](#), Brennan Manning

[Pursuit of God](#), A.W. Tozer

[Kingdom of Couches](#), Will Walker

Prayer

[Fire Seeds of Spiritual Awakening](#), Dan Hayes

[Destined for the Throne](#), Billheimer

[Pray With Your Eyes Open](#): Richard Pratt

[If God Already Knows Why We Pray](#): Douglas Kelly

[Hunger for God](#), John Piper

[The Complete Works of E.M. Bounds](#), E.M. Bounds

[Prayer](#), Andrew Murray

[With Christ in the School of Prayer](#), Andrew Murray

[Intercessors of Prayer](#), Dutch Sheets

Apologetics

[Francis Schaeffer Trilogy](#), Francis Schaeffer

[How Should we Then Live](#), Francis Schaeffer

[Mere Christianity](#), C.S. Lewis

[Scaling the Secular City](#), J.P. Moreland

[The Universe Next Door](#), James Sire

[The Compact Guide to World's Religions](#), Dean Halverson

[Total Truth](#), Nancy Pearcey

[Truth Decay](#), Douglas Groothuis

Ministry/Evangelism

[Ultimate Road Trip](#), New Life Resources
[Questioning Evangelism](#), Randy Newman
[Finding Common Ground](#), Tim Downs
[Let the Nations be Glad](#), John Piper
[Radical Reformation](#), Mark Driscoll

Emerging Church Issues

[Becoming Conversant with the Emergent Church](#), D.A. Carson
[The Emerging Church](#), Dan Kimball

Biographies

[Hudson Taylor](#), Howard and Geraldine Taylor
[William Carey](#), Mangalwadi
[CT Studd](#), Grubb
[C.S. Lewis](#), Sayer and Dorsett
[Elisabeth Elliot 'These Strange Ashes'](#), Elisabeth Elliot
[David Brainerd](#), Jonathan Edwards

Classic Books by Author:

C.S. Lewis

The Four Loves
The Abolition of Man
Weight of Glory
The Screwtape Letters
The Problem of Pain
A Grief Observed

Francis Schaeffer

How Should We Then Live
He is There and He is not Silent
Death in the City
True Spirituality
Christianity is Jewish (Edit Schaeffer)

Augustine

Confessions
City of God

John Piper

Future Grace
God is the Gospel
Don't Waste Your Life
God's Passion for His Glory

Jonathan Edwards

Religious Affections
The End for Which God Created the World

Other Books Worth Reading

Blue Like Jazz, Donald Miller
Searching for God Knows What, Donald Miller
Through Painted Deserts, Donald Miller
Girl Meets God, Lauren Winner
Real Sex, Lauren Winner
Jesus in the Margins, Rick McKinley
The Sacred Romance, John Eldredge
The Spirit of the Disciplines, Dallas Willard
A Call to Spiritual Reformation, D.A. Carson

Meeting with God- *Journaling*

A great way to enjoy time with God is to write about what you're learning when you meet with Him. A **journal** is a helpful tool for recording thoughts and emotions during your daily times with God. Keeping a journal has several benefits. It helps get your thoughts on paper, it's a place to write and share your feelings with the Lord and record prayer requests and answers. Also, your journal is a useful place to write down your observations as you study God's Word. You'll have special times with the Lord when you look back at the past months and years and worship Him for His faithfulness, provision and the personal growth you've seen. When you write in your journal don't hesitate to include whatever's on your mind that you'd like to talk to the Lord about. When you record your observations from personal Bible study, use the following suggestions to help you get started.

- 1. Record:** (10 minutes) your thoughts, feelings, prayers for your time with the Lord.
- 2. Read:** (20 minutes) Study the passage for the day. Read a book passage by passage or focus on a topic to study or use the suggested schedule below.
 1. Write out the main thought of the passage.
 2. Write what you learned.
 3. Ask how this Scripture specifically applies to your life?
- 3. Deed:** (5 minutes) Let Christ lead you to plan one totally unselfish and loving act of kindness for the day. Pray that He will act through you to fulfill this plan in a vigorous and compassionate manner.
- 4. Need:** (5 minutes) Decide what your greatest single need is for the day. Ask the Lord for clear insight about your life. Trust Him for great things.
- 5. Pray:** Spend time in prayer. The ACTS strategy for prayer is a good model to begin with.

ACTS

- Adoration:** spend time praising the Lord by praying the Psalms back to Him (Psalm 28:7 & 100:4). Sing hymns, listening to a praise tape or praise Him for His attributes.
- Confession:** Ask God to search your heart (Psalm 139:23,24). Confess any sins the Holy Spirit reveals to you (Psalm. 66:18, I John 1:9). Make certain that you're filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:15-20).
- Thanksgiving:** Thank God for all that He's done and is doing in your life and the lives of others. Write a list of what you're thankful for.
- Supplication:** Pray for specific things each day such as personal concerns, family, upcoming events, friends, missionaries, etc. Write down your requests so you'll have a record of God's guidance and faithfulness

5 Bible Study Options:

Option #1 – Growing Closer to God in 31 Days

(Read one passage a day and apply the study method on the previous page)

1. Isaiah 55:6-11
2. Psalm 63:1-8
3. Matthew 7:21-27
4. Isaiah 40:28-31
5. Psalm 1:1-6
6. Joshua 1:6-9
7. Mark 2:1-12
8. Luke 7:36-50
9. John 15:1-8
10. II Corinthians 5:14-17
11. Philippians 3:7-14
12. Psalm 34:1-10
13. James 1:2-8
14. II Corinthians 5:14-17
15. Romans 8:31-39
16. II Peter 1:4-8
17. Colossians 1:9-14
18. Philippians 2:1-11
19. Romans 12:1-5
20. Ephesians 4:11-16
21. I John 4:7-13
22. I Thessalonians 4:1-8
23. Psalm 119:1-11
24. Ephesians 6:13-20
25. Luke 11:5-10
26. Philippians 4:6-9
27. Matthew 13:53-58
28. Luke 7:2-10
29. II Timothy 2:1-7
30. John 15:13-21
31. I Corinthians 9:19-27

Option #2 - New Testament Summer Reading Plan

May 11-Genesis 1/Luke 1
May 12-Genesis 2/Luke 2
May 13-Genesis 3/Luke 3
May 14-Genesis 4/Luke 4
May 15-Genesis 6/Luke 5

May 18-Genesis 7/Luke 6
May 19-Genesis 8/Luke 7
May 20-Genesis 9/Luke 8
May 21-Genesis 26/Luke 9
May 22-Genesis 27/Luke 10

May 25-Genesis 28/Luke 11
May 26-Genesis 29/Luke 12
May 27-Genesis 30/Luke 13
May 28-Genesis 31/Luke 14
May 29-Genesis 32/Luke 15

June 1-Genesis 33/Luke 16
June 2-Genesis 35/Luke 17
June 3-Genesis 36/Luke 18
June 4-Genesis 37/Luke 19
June 5-Genesis 39/Luke 20

June 8-Genesis 40/Luke 21
June 9-Genesis 41/Luke 22
June 10-Genesis 42/Luke 23
June 11-Genesis 43/Luke 24
June 12-Genesis 44/Romans 1

June 15-Genesis 45/Romans 2
June 16-Genesis 46/Romans 3
June 17-Genesis 47/Romans 4
June 18-Genesis 48/Romans 5
June 19-Genesis 49/Romans 6

June 22-Genesis 50/Romans 7
June 23-Psalm 119:1-24/Romans 8
June 24-Psalm 119:25-48/Romans 9
June 25-Psalm 119:49-72/Romans 10
June 26-Psalm 119:73-96/Romans 11

June 29-Psalm 119:97-120/Romans 12
June 30-Psalm 119:121-144/Philippians 1
July 1-Psalm 119:145-176/Philippians 2
July 2-Proverbs 1/Philippians 3
July 3-Proverbs 2/Philippians 4

July 6-Proverbs 3/Colossians 1
July 7-Proverbs 4/Colossians 2
July 8-Proverbs 5/Colossians 3
July 9-Proverbs 6/Colossians 4
July 10-Proverbs 7/1 Thessalonians 1

July 13-Proverbs 8/1 Thessalonians 2
July 14-Proverbs 9/1 Thessalonians 3
July 15-Proverbs 10/1 Thessalonians 4
July 16-Proverbs 11/1 Thessalonians 5
July 17-Proverbs 12/2 Timothy 1

July 20-Proverbs 13/2 Timothy 2
July 21-Proverbs 14/2 Timothy 3
July 22-Proverbs 15/2 Timothy 4
July 23-Proverbs 16/Philemon
July 24-Proverbs 17/James 1

July 27-Proverbs 18/James 2
July 28-Proverbs 19/James 3
July 29-Proverbs 20/James 4
July 30-Proverbs 21/James 5

Aug 3-Proverbs 22/1 Peter 1
Aug 4-Proverbs 23/1 Peter 2
Aug 5-Proverbs 24/1 Peter 3
Aug 6-Proverbs 25/1 Peter 4
Aug 7-Proverbs 26/1 Peter 5

Aug 10-Proverbs 27/1 John 1
Aug 11-Proverbs 28/1 John 2
Aug 12-Proverbs 29/1 John 3
Aug 13-Proverbs 30/1 John 4
Aug 14-Proverbs 31/1 John 5

Option #3- See God Rightly Study

Introduction: *God is beyond our comprehension. It is only by His grace that we can know anything of who He is. He has revealed Himself to us partially as we could never fully fathom Him entirely. Furthermore, in our culture today, we all have a desperately inadequate view of who He really is. We have bought into lies and perversions of His character that are fed to us daily in our media inundated environment. If we want to live the lives that He has intended, lives of joy, peace, satisfaction and health, we need to fill our minds with correct thinking about the wonder and greatness of our God's character. Once we know Him, we will know who we are in light of being created in His image. We will then understand others better and finally live out of a response to the wonder and greatness of who He is!*

This Outline serves to highlight the different Attributes of God from the Bible. It is only a partial compilation as His character is infinitely wonderful which no mind can fully comprehend. Even once we are more and more familiar with His character, there is still difficulty in taking this information the 12 inch distance from the head to the heart. Actually only the Lord can do this (Ephesians 1:21), but we have a part in building this information into our hearts and minds and letting ourselves be transformed, (Romans 12:1,2). Look up the passages, with a notebook, answer the questions that follow. Meditate of these passages and themes and ask the Lord to solidify the realities of his incredible character deeply within your heart.

- *When we study the Bible it is of vital importance that we should always keep this idea....that the one great object and intention throughout is God revealing Himself; and you and I must discover the ways in which He has been pleased to do this.*
- *If God does not reveal Himself, I cannot know Him; but he has revealed Himself, and that revelation is to be found in this book (The Bible).*
- *This question of knowing God is the end, the supreme end, of all religion; it is the great thing that should be in the forefront of the mind and heart of every one of us. What is your need, what is your object, why are you studying these doctrines (Attributes of God)?*
- *We see that though God is finally incomprehensible, he is nevertheless knowable; He cannot be comprehended, but thank God that He can be known.*
- *Unless we understand what the Bible teaches us about God, our worship can never be real. "And they that worship Him must worship in Spirit and Truth". (John 4:24)*

Martyn Lloyd-Jones

- *The church today has surrendered her once lofty concept of God and has substituted for it one so low, so ignoble, as to be utterly unworthy of thinking, worshipping men. This she has done not deliberately, but little by little and without her knowledge; and her very unawareness only makes her situation all the more tragic.*
- *If we would bring back the spiritual power to our lives, we must begin to think of God more nearly as He is.*
- *What comes to our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.*
- *I believe there is scarcely an error in doctrine or a failure in applying Christian ethics that cannot be traced finally to imperfect and ignoble thoughts about God.*

A.W. Tozer

- *Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches; but let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and know me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth; for in these things I delight, says the Lord.*

God (Jeremiah 9:23-24)

1. Holy

Definition: Totally set apart. Pure, with no blemish. (This characteristic is holistic in that it encompasses all other attributes of God’s character. No other attribute can be seen outside the constrains of His perfection in Holiness. So it is a separate category here, but is really the framework that underlies every other characteristic from big to small)

1. Biblical Claims

- Exodus 15:11
- 1 Samuel 2:2
- Psalm 33
- Isaiah 5:16
- Isaiah 6:1-3
- Isaiah 40:21-31
- Isaiah 57:15
- Ezekiel 36:22

- 2 Chronicles 30:27
- Revelation 15:4

2. Biblical examples

- Exodus 19:10-25
- Exodus 33:20-23
- Leviticus 16
- Revelation 1:12-18

Summary: Summarize God’s Holiness. What are its qualities? What effects does it have, on Him.....on us? What are the ramifications of His holiness? What stands out to you about His holiness?

2. Eternal/Immutable

Definition: God is without beginning and without ending, He is everlasting and unchanging. He can never be different in essence. It is never possible that He should differ in any respect from what He always is and always has been.

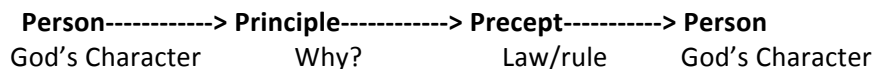
1. Eternal/Unchanging

- Psalm 90
- Psalm 102
- Numbers 23:19
- Deuteronomy 32:4
- 1 Samuel 2:2,15:29
- 2 Samuel 22:2
- Psalm 18, 95:1, 102:25-27
- Isaiah 40:6-8
- James 1:17

2. Foundation of Truth

- 2 Samuel 7:28
- Psalm 31:5
- John 17:3, 17:17
- Romans 1:18-25

The Foundation of the Law (Derived from God’s character); leads us to his desire for us of healing, protection and goodness; leads us to a rule or law; which leads us back to Him and the ability to relate to Him in joy and satisfaction.



*Change and Decay in all around I see,
Oh Thou who changest not, abide with me. H.F. Lyte*

Summary: What are the ramifications of God’s immutability? What effect does it have on you to know that He never changes? What does our society say about absolute truth? How can God claim that He is the ultimate truth? What makes His ways right?

3. Omnipresent

Definition: God is present everywhere. Yet there are certain places where it seems that God is especially present i.e. Heaven. This does not mean that God is, or is in everything or everywhere, that is Pantheism.

- Psalm 139:7-12
- Jeremiah 23:23-24
- Acts 17:28

Summary: How does this characteristic serve as a blessing? How does it serve as a warning?

4. Omniscient

Definition: God knows all things and His knowledge is always absolute knowledge. It is perfect knowledge, a complete knowledge of everything.

1. Knowledge

- Psalm 147
- Proverbs 15:3
- Matthew 10:29
- Psalm 139:2.3
- Exodus 3:7
- Luke 12:7

- Hebrews 4:13

2. Wisdom

- 1 Corinthians 1:22-30
- Proverbs 1-4
- James 3:17-18

Summary: What is the difference between Knowledge and Wisdom? How do God's attributes of Knowledge and Wisdom compliment each other? What if God only had divine knowledge, but no wisdom?

5. Omnipotent

Definition: How would you define omnipotence?

1. Creator

- Genesis 1-2
- Psalm 104
- John 1:1-5
- 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:5

2. Sovereignty

- Daniel 4:35
- Psalm 147:15-18, 148:8
- Isaiah 55:10-11
- Romans 8:19-39, 9
- Ephesians 1:3-14

Summary: How does our society differ with these explanations of life? How do you buy into society's views subconsciously?

6. Pursuer of Man

Definition: God is in active, relentless pursuit of man. The whole Bible reveals His character in this area. From beginning to end, it is the story of God's glory being promoted by Him building a kingdom of redeemed people on Earth.

-Read these passages and meditate on God as the Pursuer of Man

- Exodus 3 (Moses)
- John 1
- Acts 9:1-31 (Paul)
- Luke 15
- John 3:16-21

Summary: What difference does it make to know how He pursues us? As you read through the Bible in the coming days, months and years. Take note of how God pursues us.

Further Exercises on God's Character:

God's Character in the Old Testament

Below are some additional selections of scripture that help illuminate in narrative form, the character of God. Read the sections with a notebook and pen. Write down the different aspects of God's character from above that you come across. As you read the OT in particular, read it as God showing us through example, who He is. The Bible is God's revelation of Himself and He is giving us glimpses of who He is. He often uses His relationships with people to highlight who He is and the principles of His character that we can expect to see in His interaction with us. It is not so much the story of who God's people are, as much as it is the story of who God is with His people. Enjoy these passages and let them work deep into your soul.

- Gideon (Judges 6)
- Abraham (Genesis 12-25)
- Joshua (Joshua 1-11)
- Psalms
- Joseph (Genesis 37-50)
- Saul (1 Samuel 9-10)
- David (1 Samuel 16, 2 Samuel 12-21)

God's Character in the Psalms

Read Psalm 1-150. Just take an overview, read 2-4 Psalms a day for as long as it takes to read all of them. As you read, write down all the instances of God's character that you find. Meditate daily on His character, writing down thoughts, praises, responses. Categorize the main characteristics that you find. Continually ask God as you read and meditate to make His character known deep within you in a way that causes you to respond with all your heart!

God's Character in the New Testament

The God of the New Testament is not a different God than in the Old Testament! He is operating in a new covenant or agreement with man, but He nor any of His character has changed in any way. Take one of your favorite epistles or letters of the New Testament or try Hebrews 1-4 or John 1. Read it through in its entirety in one sitting the first time. Ask yourself who God is revealing Himself to be in this letter. What do His commands, ideas, thoughts, ways of relating to people that He reveals through the writer reveal about Himself? What must the writer know and believe about God's character to write or say the things that He does? Take some of those classifications of God's character that you came up with in the Old Testament or the Psalms, and add the New Testament revelation of those same characteristics of God to the list.

Top book picks on the attributes of God

[*Knowing God*](#), J.I. Packer

[*Pursuit of God*](#), A.W. Tozer

[*God the Father, God the Son*](#), Martyn Lloyd Jones

[*The Attributes of God*](#), A.W. Pink

[*Knowledge of the Holy*](#), A.W. Tozer

Option #4- See Yourself Rightly Study

Before you can really see yourself as God sees you, you must gain a clearer understanding of who He is. If He isn't that great, who cares what He thinks about you? If He is truly beautiful and wonderful and you are beginning to really grasp that at a heart level, then what He thinks of you is all that matters. (If you haven't done the first study in this series "Seeing God Rightly", spend some time with that one first) Then, enter this study with a prayerful heart asking God to reveal to you, in the depth of your soul, who you are and who He created you to be.

What do we really want as humans? I believe it all simply boils down to the fact that we want to feel good about ourselves. That may seem too trivial of a statement, but think about it. Think about what motivates you in life to do the things you do; Relationships, school, sports, family, really everything that you are involved in. Even things that seem to be for the good of others, somewhere in the scheme of those things, we really just want to feel good about who we are. Why is there so much divorce in our society? People's needs are not met in the relationship; it hasn't made them feel good enough about themselves. Why is suicide the leading cause of death among teenagers? Why is depression such an epidemic in our culture? Why is the media obsessed with outward beauty? Why do people become work-a-holics? On some level, it all has to do with feeling good about ourselves.

God knew when He created us that we would have this need. In fact He designed us this way. He also created the solution to this need though and it is to be in soul satisfying relationship with Him. With the God of the universe in deep love with you, how could you need anything else to feel good about yourself?? The Fall came through Adam though. Ever since then, we have missed the completeness of that relationship with God. We experience it in part, but it is in restoration, not in fullness. We need salvation from God which in Hebrew means "Healing". We need our hearts and souls healed from the need to feel good about ourselves on our own, without the satisfier of our souls. We go through life trying to make external things fill this need, friends, social status, job, sports, relationships, but they never make us feel like we really want to, or at least not permanently.

We will only feel good about ourselves when salvation, healing comes from God. The way He heals or saves us is by drawing us into an ever increasing knowledge of Him. Then once we know how great He is, the facts of how He sees us are overwhelming, satisfying and healing! He thinks you are incredible, He calls you a friend, He knew you before the beginning of time and loves you passionately. This is who you are and that is reason to feel good about yourself!

- *When we first realize that God did not need to create us and does not need us for anything, we could conclude that our lives have no importance at all. But scripture tells us that we were created to glorify God, indicating that we are important to God himself. This is the final definition of genuine importance or significance to our lives: If we are truly important to God for all eternity, then what greater measure of importance or significance could we want?*

Wayne Grudem (Systematic Theology pg 440)

- *Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Gen 1:26 Out of all the creatures God made, only one creature, man is said to be made "in the image of God". What does that mean? The fact that man is in the image of God means that man is like God and represents God.....It would be good for us to reflect on our likeness to God more often. It will probably amaze us to realize that when the Creator of the universe wanted to create something "in his image", something more like himself than all the rest of creation, he made us. This realization will give us profound sense of dignity and significance as we reflect on the excellence of all the rest of God's creation: the starry universe, the abundant earth, the world of plants and animals, and the angelic kingdoms are remarkable, even magnificent. But we are more like our Creator than any of these things. We are the culmination of God's infinitely wise and skillful work or creation. Even though sin has marred that likeness, we nonetheless now reflect much of it and shall even more as we grown in likeness to Christ.*

Wayne Grudem (Systematic Theology pgs 442,449)

- Before you begin working through these sections. Reflect on these questions. Jot some things down that come to your mind for each of these.
 - Why am I here?
 - Who are we?
 - What is our purpose?

I. *Our Identity*

Ephesians 1:3-24

- Read this passage three times in one sitting, the first time just read, the second write down things that stand out to you about your identity, the third time begin to process the questions below from the text
1. Write down a list of all the Spiritual Blessings in this section. Which are the main blessings (circle them). Which ones modify the main blessings (underline them).
 2. Which of them do you get the most excited about? (put a star next to it) Which of them do you have the hardest time believing? (write a short paragraph why you have a hard time believing it, pray and ask God to help you believe this part of your identity)
 3. "In Him" is a major theme in this section. Why does Paul use this phrase? What does it communicate?
 4. For a moment, forget about the confusing ideas that are presented in the verses talking about us being "chosen" and "predestined". If you truly are chosen before the beginning of time, what significance does that idea make to you and how you feel about yourself?
 5. "In accordance with His pleasure and will". Do you view your adoption into His family, your salvation, your inclusion "In Him", as for His pleasure? How do you tend to think He thinks of you?
 6. What does "He lavished grace on us" mean?
 7. What significance does it have that we were saved "For the praise of His glory"? Do you feel that God is glorified by your unity with Him? What difference does it make to know that indeed He is glorified by your relationship to Him?
 8. What is a "seal"? What is this communicating about our security in our relationship to God?
 9. What are the two things he asks for and why? Make an outline with main headings and sub headings of his prayer for you in vs 17-19. Do you sense the profundity of these things that we have in increasing measure? *Our close friend is head over all for all time!*
 10. What are the things about how God views you that mean the most? Choose an area to repeat and remind your self of throughout this day.
 11. According to this passage what is your purpose in life?
 12. As Christians where does meaning and value come from in life? Consider memorizing all or part of this section and constantly run it through your mind and heart throughout the day.

Questions to consider;

1. What do you really think that God thinks of you?
2. Do you believe He really loves you?
3. Do you believe he likes you? Do you think He just loves you because He is loving, but when it comes to liking you, do you really believe He actually likes you like a friend?
4. If you really knew that God does like you and wants to spend time with you like a friend, what does that do to your confidence in life....your security?

- Read these additional verses and sections and write down notes of your responses to how God views us.

John 15:9-13	Luke 15:11-32
Isaiah 43:1-4	Isaiah 40

II. *Our Purpose*

Not only do we have great significance because of who God created us to be, but also for the role He created us to take in this world. Examine the passages below and reflect on the important role that God has given you and how that adds meaning and value to life.

1. **Purposed to be like Him:**

Romans 8:28-29

2 Corinthians 3:18

2 Corinthians 5:17

How do these verses affect your significance in life?

2. **Purposed to be used by Him**

Ephesians 2:10

Romans 12:3-8

1 Peter 4:10

2 Corinthians 5:18-21

1 Corinthians 12:4-5

How do these verses affect your significance in life?

3. **Purposed to Belong**

Ephesians 1:5

1 Peter 1:3

Romans 12:5

How do these verses affect your significance in life?

Would you answer the questions: Why am I here? Who am I? What is my purpose?; any differently now? What is different after you see these things of your identity in scripture?

Suggested reading:

[Abba's Child](#) Brennan Manning

[Destined for the Throne](#) Billheimer

Option #5- Attributes of God Passages

1. Look up these passages of God's Character and ask Him to affirm His character in your heart and mind.

2. Do your own study of God's attributes this summer by taking these topics and doing a search with a concordance. Find all the verses or sections you can on an attribute. Memorize a verse for each attribute. Meditate this summer on God's character and ask Him to give you a right view of Him!

Holy

Psalms 22:3; 93:5; 30:4; 5:5a;
99:5
Isaiah 6:3; 57:15
Hebrews 12:10
I John 1:5
Revelation 4:8; 15:4

Immutable

Numbers 23:19
Psalm 119:89,90
Malachi 3:6
Hebrews 1:10-12
James 1:17

Sovereign

Psalms 89:5-8; 103:19; 135:6
Proverbs 19:21
Ecclesiastes 3:14
Isaiah 40:15,17,22,23; 46:9,10
Daniel 2:21; 4:35

Wisdom & Knowledge

Job 9:2-4; 12:13; 36:5
Psalms 7:11; 34:15-16; 90:8;
103:14; 104:24; 139; 147:5
Proverbs 3:19; 21:30
Isaiah 40:26,28; 46:10
Daniel 2:20
Romans 11:33-36
Hebrews 4:13

Loving

Psalms 23:6; 33:5; 36:5-9;
51:1;52:1; 59:16; 86:5; 90:14
103:8,11; 107:43; 136:1; 145:8
Proverbs 16:6
Jeremiah 9:24
Lamentations 3:32,33

Power

Exodus 15:11
I Chronicles 20:6; 29:11-13
Job 38:4
Psalms 33:6; 50:1; 62:11
Nahum 1:3a
Ephesians 3:20,21
I Timothy 6:15,16
Hebrews 1:3

Righteous

Job 36:3
Psalms 7:17; 11:7; 23:3; 35:28;
36:6;45:6; 48:10; 65:5; 71:15,
16,19; 85:11-13; 89:14,16;
96:13;
97:6; 98:2; 103:6; 111:3;
119:142,
172;145:7
Isaiah 5:16; 45:24; 51:5,6; 61:10
Jeremiah 23:6
Hosea 2:19

Faithfulness & Provision

Deuteronomy 7:9
II Chronicles 16:9
Psalm 23; 27; 36; 37; 65; 68;
89:8; 92:1,2; 119:138
Lamentations 3:22,23
I Thessalonians 5:24
II Timothy 2:13
Hebrews 10:23
I Peter 4:19

Psalms of Praise

Psalms 24:7-10
Psalm 28:6,7
Psalm 30:4

Psalms 34:1-3

Psalms 50:23
Psalm 56:10-12
Psalm 63:3-6
Psalm 69:30, 34
Psalm 75:1
Psalm 86:12
Psalm 92:1,2
Psalm 103
Psalm 111
Psalm 113
Psalm 117
Psalms 145-150

Other Passages of Praise

I Chronicles 16:31, 34, 36
Isaiah 25:1, 38:18
Daniel 2:20,23
Acts 2:46,47
Romans 11:36
I Corinthians 15:57
Ephesians 1:3; 5:19
I Timothy 1:17
Hebrews 13:15
I Peter 2:9;4:11

Portions of Promises

II Chronicles 7:14
Psalm 6:9; 10:17; 37:3-5;
55:1,16,17,22; 84:11; 108:13;
Proverbs 3:5,6
Isaiah 65:24; 41:10
Jeremiah 29:12,13; 33:3
Matthew 7:7,8; 21:22
Romans 8:26
Ephesians 3:20,21
Hebrews 11:6
James 1:5-7; 5:16
I John 5:14,15; 3:2

Summer Prayer for Campus

Incoming Freshman

- That Christians would want to take a stand for Christ (Matthew 9:37-38). Pray that they would avoid involvement with the worldliness on campus. I Corinthians 5 & 6; Revelation 21:8; John 17:15; 2 Corinthians 11:2, 3
- Pray for non-Christians, that God would prepare the soil of their hearts would be hungry to hear the gospel and ready to respond in faith. Matthew 13 and 2 Corinthians 4:6: *For God, who said, "Let light shine out of the darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.*

Your Transformational Community

- That we'd be people who know the Lord. Ephesians 1:18-19: *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.*
- That we would consider *life as Christ*, that we would present ourselves to Him, that we would seek His kingdom first. Philippians 1:21: *For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.* Romans 12:1,2; Matthew 6:33.
- That we would let the Spirit of God control and empower us. Ephesians 3:14-19: *That God would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man; so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.*
- That we would be people who delight in God's word. Psalm 1:2: *But his delight is in the Law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night.*
- That there would be a supernatural unity among us so that the campus may believe. John 17:20-21: *I do not ask in behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that Thou didst send Me.*
- That we would grow spiritually this summer. That they would step out in faith. Hebrews 12:1-3; Colossians 3:16; Romans 4:3; Hebrews 11:8