

Providence Baptist Church

Discipleship Class – Know What You Believe and Why

Lesson 1 – Introduction - Myths about God

Lesson Objectives:

- Understand and share myths about God as opposed to truths about God. (1 Peter 3:15)

1. Discuss the following questions:
 - a. How have you developed your belief system thus far? I.e. Friends? Family? Church?

 - b. What is the difference between a myth and truth? Give a practical example.

2. The Cosmic Cop – The Killjoy Myth
 - a. Read 1 Peter 5:8. How does this verse portray Satan? Read Revelation 12:10. This verse speaks of Satan. What does it say he does "day and night"?

 - b. Read Psalm 16:11...so in light of this verse and the previous verses, does God want to spoil your fun and the devil doesn't care if you have fun?

3. The Luke Skywalker God – The Impersonal Force Myth
 - a. If God is an impersonal force or a Luke Skywalker God, what would that look like?

 - b. Read Moses' encounter with God in Exodus 3:1-15. How does God identify Himself to Moses in verse 6? By what name does He call Himself in verse 14? What does it mean to you that God is a personal God?

4. The Vending Machine God – The Father Christmas Myth
 - a. Read 1 John 3:21-22, Jeremiah 33:3 and Isaiah 65:24. Does that mean that God will answer all our prayers and requests? Why are you glad God is not a "Vending Machine God"?

Providence Baptist Church

Discipleship Class – Know What You Believe and Why

Lesson 2 – Myths About Jesus – Part I

Lesson Objectives:

- Understand and be able to share myths about Jesus as opposed to truths about Jesus. (1 Peter 3:15)

1. **Prophet Jesus – The Good Teacher Myth** – Review the following verses and make a list of Jesus' claims about himself.

- Matthew 5:17: _____
- Mark 13:23: _____
- Luke 12:9: _____
- John 5:21: _____
- John 8:51 _____
- John 10:18: _____

From these verses, do you think Jesus left any doubt that He was the Son of God? Then why would it be advantageous for Satan, world cults and 'isms' and organized religions to put forth the idea that Jesus is not who He says He is.

2. **Partial Jesus – The Superstar Myth** – What is meant by referring to Jesus as "Partial Jesus" and what is your understanding of the Superstar Myth?

3. How does Matthew 2:2, 11; Matthew 28:7; and Hebrews 1:6 refute these myths?

4. How would you explain the duality of Jesus' nature? Use Philippians 2:6-7 as a reference.

Providence Baptist Church

Discipleship Class – Know What You Believe and Why

Lesson 3 – Myths About Jesus – Part 2

Lesson Objectives:

- Understand and be able to share myths about Jesus as opposed to truths about Jesus. (1 Peter 3:15)

1. **Wimpy Jesus – The Meek and Mild Myth** - What is it about Jesus's that would cause someone to perceive that Jesus was Meek and Mild?

Then...review Luke 13:31-33 and Matthew 23:1-39 and explain why the terms "meek and mild" also had a different meaning.

2. **Plastic Jesus – The Ivory Tower Myth** – How would you explain the ivory tower myth to friends and/or family and why Jesus could not possibly fit this description?

3. Read Mark 6:1-6 and make a list of who the people in Jesus' hometown of Nazareth know Him as.

4. **Lily-White Jesus – The Racist Myth** - Do you believe that Jesus is White or Black? Why would that be advantageous to certain groups...e.g. Ku Klux Klan, etc?

Read John 4:4-26 and discuss how Jesus' response to the Samaritan woman transcends barriers of race and color.

Providence Baptist Church

Discipleship Class – Know What You Believe and Why

Lesson 4 – Myths About the Bible – Part 1

Lesson Objectives:

- Understand and be able to share myths about the Bible as opposed to truths about the Bible. (1 Peter 3:15)
1. **One Among Many – The Just-Another-Great Book Myth** – There is one unfolding story from page one to "The End" of the Bible. What is it? What sets this story apart from any other story found in other literary works?
 - a. Jeremiah 5:14 -
 - b. Jeremiah 23:29 -
 - c. Romans 1:16-17-
 - d. Ephesians 6:17
 - e. Hebrews 4:12
 2. Read the following references to see how the Bible likens itself to some other object that is mighty in influence. Read each reference, then list next to it what the Bible parallels, and consider why-in what way(s) - the Bible is like that object.
 - a. Jeremiah 5:14 -
 - b. Jeremiah 23:29 -
 - c. Romans 1:16-17-
 - d. Ephesians 6:17
 - e. Hebrews 4:12
 3. **The Bible and Swiss Cheese - The Holey Bible Myth** – Review the following verses and share how Jesus felt about the Word of God...then discuss how we should view the Word of God in light of Jesus' response.
 - a. Matthew 4:4 -
 - b. Matthew 4:7 -
 - c. Matthew 4:10 -
 4. **The Bible and the Telephone Game** – Give evidences or examples why the Bible is reliable and not like the "telephone game".

Explain the Variant Readings Myth.

Providence Baptist Church

Discipleship Class – Know What You Believe and Why

Lesson 5 – Myths About the Bible – Part 2

Lesson Objectives:

- Understand and be able to share myths about the Bible as opposed to truths about the Bible. (1 Peter 3:15)

1. Changing Fact to Fiction – The Myths and Legends Myth - In your own opinion, why would it be advantageous for anyone to change facts about the Bible to fiction?

Are there any parts of the Bible that's difficult for you to believe? Please explain.

2. Read the following verses:

Luke 1:1-3

1 John 1:3

Acts 2:22

John 19:35

Who are the writers? Were they eyewitnesses to the things they wrote about? Did they intend what they wrote to be understood as fact or fiction? How do you know? Does this help in clearing up any difficulties in your separating fact from fiction?

3. Dr. Luke And The Case of The Disappearing Politarch – The Archaeological Myth –
 - a. Define Archaeology. Does archeology and modern science disprove the truths of the Bible or validate them?
4. Read the following portions of Scripture and fill in the name of the individual whose existence and identity, long stated in the Bible, has been supported by archaeological discovery. Does this help in clearing up any difficulties in your separating fact from fiction as it relates to the Bible?

- a. Daniel 5:30 - Once thought to be an embarrassing mistake (since a clay tablet named Nabonidus as the last king of Babylon), later research supported the existence of _____, the son of Nabonidus, who ruled as co-regent with his father.

- b. Romans 16:23 - Excavations in 1929 revealed a man known as _____ and identified him as the director of public works in Corinth?

- c. 2 Chronicles 2:17 – A 1993 and 1994 discovery in the north of Israel provided the first archaeological confirmation of the “House of _____”, refuting some scholars who had questioned or denied the existence of the king who wrote many psalms.

Do these examples assist you in establishing the validity of Bible as history?

Providence Baptist Church

Discipleship Class – Know What You Believe and Why

Lesson 6 – Myths About the Resurrection

Lesson Objectives:

- Understand and be able to share myths about the Resurrection as opposed to truths about the Resurrection. (1 Peter 3:15)

1. Playing Dead? – The Swoon Myth –

- a. In your opinion, why have so many people set out to disprove the resurrection? What part of the resurrection of Jesus Christ presents a problem for you?
- b. What is the Swoon Theory? Why does the Swoon Theory have to be a myth?
- c. Why is the resurrection so critical to Christianity?

2. Blind Man's Bluff? – The Wrong Tomb Myth

- a. Explain the Wrong Tomb Myth in your own words. If the Wrong Tomb Myth is correct, what does that mean for us as Christians?
- b. Read Matthew 27:61; Mark 15:47 and Luke 23:55). The women *saw* Jesus' burial. Why was that recorded by Matthew, Mark, and Luke?

3. Hide 'N' Seek? – The Stolen Body Myth

- a. Explain the Stolen Body Myth. What factors in the Stolen Body Myth makes such a story impossible to believe by some?

4. Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-8. What four things does Paul say are “of first importance”?

Providence Baptist Church

Discipleship Class – Know What You Believe and Why

Lesson 7 – Myths About Religion and Christianity Part 1

Lesson Objectives:

- Understand and be able to share myths about Religion and Christianity as opposed to truths about Religion and Christianity. (1 Peter 3:15)

1. One Man's Ceiling is Another Man's Floor – The Relativity Myth
 - a. In your own words, define Relativity.
 - b. Read Judges 17:6 in the King James Version. The Relativity Myth characterized the days of the judges in Israel, because “every man did that which was _____.”
 - c. Read Proverbs 14:12. What does this proverb, repeated in Proverbs 16:25, say about the way that seems right? What result does it bring?
 - d. Read Isaiah 45:19. According to this verse, who decides what is right?
 - e. Read John 8:31-32, what does Jesus think about right and wrong?
2. If You're OK, then I Must Be OK – The God-Will-Grade-On-A-Curve Myth – In your opinion, will God ever say, “Well, Mary, you weren't quite as bad as Johnny was, so come on into heaven?” Make a list of what's wrong with this way of thinking.
3. When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder, Everybody'll Be There – The Universalist Myth. –
 - a. Is that statement fact or fiction? Why or Why Not?
 - b. Read Revelation 20:12-15. The Bible plainly prophesies what will happen at the last judgment. According to these verses, will everyone go to heaven? What will happen to those whose names (by their own choice while they live) are not in the Book of Life?

Providence Baptist Church

Discipleship Class – Know What You Believe and Why

Lesson 8 – Myths About Religion and Christianity – Part 2

Lesson Objectives:

- Understand and be able to share myths about Religion and Christianity as opposed to truths about Religion and Christianity. (1 Peter 3:15)

1. It's Not What You Know, It's Who You Know – The Ideology Myth
 - a. Explain in your own words what is meant by "Christianity is not a Religion. It is a Relationship"?

 - b. Then, explain why for Christians, it's not what you know, it's who you know.

2. Check Your Brains At the Door – The Unintellectual Myth
 - a. When you become a Christian, are you required to sacrifice your intellect and ignore your rational processes? Why or why not? Review Acts 17:16-34 to see how Paul addressed this issue.

 - b. Can you explain how Romans 1:16 refutes the "Check Your Brains at the Door" Myth?

3. Jeff and the Professor – The Blind Faith Myth
 - a. What is blind faith?

 - b. Explain the difference in these two sayings: "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free (John 8:32) and "you just gotta believe in spite of the truth?

 - c. Is Jesus asking us to have blind faith?

Providence Baptist Church

Discipleship Class – Know What You Believe and Why

Lesson 9 – Myths About Religion and Christianity – Part 3

Lesson Objectives:

- Understand and be able to share myths about Religion and Christianity as opposed to truths about Religion and Christianity. (1 Peter 3:15)

1. Abe Lincoln and the Ten O'clock Class – The Unscientific Myth
 - a. First, define “scientific method”.
 - b. What is the legal historical method, or the evidential method?
 - c. If Jesus’ resurrection can’t be proven scientifically, is His resurrection a myth?
 - d. Read John 20:1-9. What physical evidence of Jesus’ resurrection is referred to in these verses? Read John 20:30-31, what kind of evidence is referred to in this verse...historical or evidential?
2. Stewed Tomatoes and Tennis Shoes – The Brainwash Myth
 - a. Explain the Brainwash Myth:
 - b. To show, from the Bible, how many others whose life was changed through faith in Jesus Christ. Complete the following chart. Can you include your name?

Name

Nationality

Profession

Acts 9:1-9, 17-19

Acts 10:1-45

Acts 16:11-15

Acts 16:22-33

3. No Doubt About It – The Thomas Myth – Is the term “real Christians don’t doubt” biblical? Read Luke 24:36-47 – What was the first reaction of the disciples to the appearance of the risen Christ?

Providence Baptist Church

Discipleship Class – Know What You Believe and Why

Lesson 10 – Myths About Religion and Christianity – Part 4

Lesson Objectives:

- Understand and be able to share myths about Religion and Christianity as opposed to truths about Religion and Christianity. (1 Peter 3:15)

1. Potted Plants Don't Answer Prayer – The Subjective Faith Myth
 - a. Explain subjective faith? What is existentialism? Is the Christian faith subjective faith?
 - b. Read 1 Corinthians 1:17 and explain what Paul thought about subjective faith.
2. Sin, Shame, and Shattered Fame – The Elmer Gantry Myth
 - a. What is the Elmer Gantry Myth? How does Jude 24 refute this myth?
 - b. Read Philippians 1:15-18. What does Paul say about those who seem to preach the gospel falsely? What does he consider “the important thing”?
3. The Serpent's Promise – The New Age Myth
 - a. Describe the New Age Movement.
 - b. Describe how God's Word explodes the New Age movement. (Phil. 2:6-8)
4. Hey, I Don't Deserve This! – The Rose Garden Myth
 - a. Are Christians entitled to lives that are free from struggle, sorrow, and suffering?
 - b. Read Acts 4:1-13, 21; Luke 23:32-43; 2 Corinthians 6:4-10; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.
 - c. What did God do for them in this suffering and sorrow? Does that give you hope?

Providence Baptist Church

Discipleship Class – Know What You Believe and Why

Lesson 11 – Myths About Life and Happiness – Part 1

Lesson Objectives:

- Understand and be able to share myths about Life and Happiness as opposed to truths about Life and Happiness. (1 Peter 3:15)

1. Lifestyles of Rich and Amos – The Consumer Myth

- a. If you had one wish that would make you happy, what would you wish for? Fame, riches, BMW, etc. Would you really be happy once you received your wish?
- b. Read 1 Timothy 6:9 and Luke 12:15. What do these verses say about the Consumer Myth?
- c. Read Philippians 4:11-13. What were Paul's circumstances at this writing? Why was Paul happy?
- d. Read Hebrews 13:5- This verse cites one reason to be content with what you have. What is it? What does this promise have to do with contentment?

2. Nice Guys Don't Always Finish Last – The Nice Guy Myth

- a. Give some examples of the Nice Guy Myth?
- b. How does Matthew 5:5; James 4:10; and Luke 14:11 dispel the myth that "Nice guys finish last"?
- c. Read Genesis 39:1-6. Joseph entered Egypt as a slave, yet he became an important official in the house of Potiphar the Egyptian (and later rose higher, to second-in-command to Pharaoh himself). How did Joseph Make it to "the top".

3. No Geeks, Dorks, or Dweebs – The Pharisees' Myth

- a. The Pharisees devised strict guidelines outlining the right crowd and the wrong crowd. Are there certain people who have been labeled that you choose not to associate with? Give an example.

- b. The gospels reveal Jesus at a popular party and dinner guest. Read the following scriptures and note the people He counted as friends:

Matthew 9:9-13

Mark 14:3

Luke 7:36-38

Providence Baptist Church

Discipleship Class – Know What You Believe and Why

Lesson 12 – Myths About Life and Happiness – Part 2

Lesson Objectives:

- Understand and be able to share myths about Life and Happiness as opposed to truths about Life and Happiness. (1 Peter 3:15)

1. Boys Will be Boys – The Manhood Myth

- a. Can you give some examples of the manhood myth that you have encountered in your sphere of influence?
- b. Let's look at how a biblical character, Joseph, refused sexual temptation and sin. Read Genesis 39:1-9. Joseph had the opportunity to go to bed with Potiphar's wife. What was his response? He gave two reasons for his decision. What were they?
- c. Read Genesis 39:11-23 -- Joseph was even punished as a result of his virtue, but what blessing came to him because of his refusal to sin against God?

2. The Crossing Guard – The Egoist Myth

- a. Each of the following Scripture passages identifies an egoist. Answer these two questions regarding each: Who is (are) the egoist(s)? What becomes of him or her?

2 Samuel 15:1-12; 18:17

1 Kings 1:5-6, 42-53

3. Beauty is the Beast – The Cover Girl Myth

- a. What is the Cover Girl Myth? What does Scripture (1 Samuel 16:7) say about appearances?
- b. Review the following verses and discuss what it takes to find happiness: Psalm 32:1; Proverbs 3:13; Proverbs 14:21; Luke 11:28.

Providence Baptist Church

Discipleship Class – Know What You Believe and Why

Lesson 13 – Myths About Life and Happiness – Part 3

Lesson Objectives:

- Understand and be able to share myths about Life and Happiness as opposed to truths about Life and Happiness. (1 Peter 3:15)

1. Everybody's Doing It – The Conformist Myth

- a. What is a Conformist?
- b. Do you having difficulty saying “No” when pressured to do something outside of the norm? What are some of the pressures you are faced with on a daily basis? Make a list.
- c. Read Romans 12:2 – What do you think this verse is saying about conforming and what should you be doing instead.
- d. Read Romans 8:29 – Instead of being like everybody else, who is God conforming us to be like?

2. Sex Is Not A Dirty Word – The Puritan Myth

- a. Why do you believe that God does not hate sex?
- b. What does God hate instead as it relates to sex?
- c. When God says, “Thou shalt not commit adultery” (Exodus 20:14) or sexual immorality, what is God trying to protect us from? Make a list.
- d. Read Hebrews 13:4, what will happen to the adulterer and all the sexually immoral?

Providence Baptist Church

Discipleship Class – Know What You Believe and Why

Lesson 14 – Myths About Life and Happiness – Part 4

Lesson Objectives:

- Understand and be able to share myths about Life and Happiness as opposed to truths about Life and Happiness. (1 Peter 3:15)

1. Of Shoes and Ships and Sealing Wax, of Crabs and Other Things – The Anarchist Myth
 - a. What is an Anarchist?
 - b. What laws or rules and regulations you find are too restrictive. Make a list.
 - c. Now, with your list, answer why it is necessary to have those laws or rules and regulations. (example Illegal for minors to smoke cigarettes...this is a good law because it will protect us from addiction as well as health issues).
 - d. Elaborate on John 8:36. What you think the Bible really means about real freedom.
2. Next to the commandment, make a note of what would happen if we did not have that commandment.
 - a. Thou shalt have no other gods before me: _____
 - b. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth _____
 - c. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain _____
 - d. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy _____
 - e. Honor thy father and thy mother _____
 - f. Thou shalt not kill _____
 - g. Thou shalt not commit adultery _____
 - h. Thou shalt not steal _____
 - i. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor _____
 - j. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's. _____

Providence Baptist Church

Discipleship Class – Know What You Believe and Why

Lesson 15 – Myths About Life and Happiness – Part 5

Lesson Objectives:

- Understand and be able to share myths about Life and Happiness as opposed to truths about Life and Happiness. (1 Peter 3:15)

1. Stars in Your Eyes – The Love-at-First Sight Myth
 - a. Do you believe true love can be at first sight? Discuss why or why not.

 - b. Find the definition of love in the dictionary and write it here:

2. Now Read 1 Corinthians 13: Paul’s famous love chapter. Complete the following characteristics of love, according to the apostle. Compare the characteristics of love as found in the dictionary and Paul’s characteristics. What is one word that stands out in the dictionary that is not present in Paul’s account?

Love is _____

Love is _____

It does not _____

It is not _____

It keeps no _____

Loves does not _____ but _____

It always _____

Love never _____

- a. When a person says, “I hate myself”, based on Ephesians 5:25, 28-29, do you really believe he means that? Why or Why not?

- b. Do some research and find the kinds of biblical love that’s taught in the Bible.

Providence Baptist Church

Discipleship Class – Know What You Believe and Why

Lesson 17 – Myths About Life and Happiness – Part 7

Lesson Objectives:

- Understand and be able to share myths about Life and Happiness as opposed to truths about Life and Happiness. (1 Peter 3:15)

1. No Place Like Home – The Heaven-Is-a-Place-on-Earth Myth
 - a. Brainstorming a little bit – before you studied this lesson, what did you think heaven would be like?

 - b. Using the following scripture references, write a letter to a friend who says “Heaven is a place on Earth.”
 - i. Isaiah 66:1

 - ii. Acts 7:48-49

 - iii. Matthew 5:34-35

 - iv. John 14:2

 - v. Hebrews 9:24

 - c. Regarding Hell – Read Revelation 21:8, what do you think the second death in this verse is referring to?

 - d. God has provided for us the key to open the doors of heaven what is that key?
_____ Elaborate on your answer.

 - e. If you were to warn a friend of hell, would be your response? Can you think of a scripture reference?

Providence Baptist Church

Discipleship Class – Know What You Believe and Why

Lesson 18 – Review

Lesson Objectives:

- 1 Peter 3:15 – But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.

Myth or Truth – Fill in the blanks below with an M if the statement is a Myth and T if the statement is Truth.

Jesus is soft, sentimental, and effeminate	
The Swoon Theory proves that Jesus planned His arrest, trial and crucifixion	
Jesus was a contemplative philosopher	
The Bible describes clearly the dual nature of Christ	
God is an impersonal force	
Archeology has disproved the Bible	
The Bible speaks of love as a feeling	
There are many ways to salvation	
The Ten Commandments cannot make for true freedom for those who follow them	
Sex is wrong and sinful	
An egoist is a person who thinks he or she is the center of the universe	
Taking a stand alone in the face of a crowd takes character, strength, and guts	
Jesus shunned publicans and sinners and did not condone their behavior	
Nice guys finish last	
Regardless of what others may do, truth is truth	
Real joy is totally independent of externals	
Accidents, diseases, tragedy, death – all these things should not happen to Christians	
By transforming our consciousness, we can discover the “god” within us	
Real Christians don’t doubt	
A scientific method cannot prove that Jesus rose from the dead	
Christianity is not a religion, it is a relationship	
Happiness does not depend on possessions	
The real issue at the trial of Christ was His identity – who He was	
Someday, according to the Bible, the opportunity for repentance will be past	
No one can see the Kingdom of God unless he is born again	
The scientific method is not the only way to prove something	
What gives the Christian faith credibility is Jesus Christ being the Messiah, the Son of God	
What’s wrong for you isn’t necessarily wrong for me	
Christian conversion does not compromise a person’s intellect	

