

THE FORGE

Letting Scripture Inform Our Thinking and Identity as Young Men

Session #1

- Exercise #1
 - Describe the Gospel in 2-3 sentences.
 - “Do you look forward to Eternity, Why?”
 - “What makes the Gospel Relevant for my life TODAY?”

- The Big Story
 - Question: Why do I, or the things that I do, matter?
 - The Gospel in Five Categories
 - The Start
 - Genesis 1

 - The Fall
 - Genesis 3

 - The Redemption
 - Ephesians 1:3-14

 - The Renewal
 - Romans 12:2; I Cor. 4:16-18; Ephesians 4:17-24

 - The End
 - Matthew 25:21; Revelation 4:11; 1 John 3:2-3

- Exercise#2
 - Look back at your answers from the beginning. How would you change them?
 - Describe the Gospel in 2-3 sentences.
 - “Do you look forward to Eternity, Why?”
 - “What makes the Gospel Relevant for my life TODAY?”

- Man as Son: Son of God
 - Scriptures on Sonship:
 - **John 1:12** But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become **children of God**,
 - **John 11:52** and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the **children of God** who are scattered abroad.
 - **Romans 8:16** The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are **children of God**,
 - **Romans 8:21** that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the **children of God**.
 - **Romans 9:8** This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the **children of God**, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring.

THE FORCE

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- **Philippians 2:15** that you may be blameless and innocent, **children of God** without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,
 - **1 John 3:1** See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called **children of God**; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.
 - **1 John 3:10** By this it is evident who are the **children of God**, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.
 - **Romans 8:15** For you did not receive the **spirit of slavery** to fall back into fear, but you have received the **Spirit of adoption** as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"
 - Luke 15:20 ²⁰ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.
- Discussion Question: "What does it mean to be the Son of God?"
 - Discussion Question: "Why does God want me to think about myself as His Son and to think of Him as my Father?"
 - The family and sonship descriptions are to lead to two primary conclusions about our relationship with God:
 - Essential
 - Affectionate
- Exercise#3:
 - Who am I?, Where am I?, What do I do? Who do I relate to? Why? What could I do better?
 - Sitting here, two years from today, looking back, what has to happen in that time period for you to feel like you've done a great job and feel the pleasure of God in this area?
 - Homework
 - Prayer: 15 minutes of prayer each day. Keep a journal of things that come to mind to pray as you pray through the Psalm of the day.
 - Reading: Chapters 1-3 (pages 1-47) of "Prodigal God": write down at least one thing that stands out to you from each chapter.
 - Parent/Mentor Interaction: Initiate a meeting with your dad (or if your dad isn't available, a godly man in your life), and ask them and dialogue about these three questions:
 - "Where do you see me displaying the Gospel with my life?"
 - "Where do you feel I should most immediately adjust my life to more accurately display the Gospel in my life?"
 - "Will you help me, through prayer and accountability, to better pursue my role as a Son of God?"