



A Bible Study from the LCMS Northern Illinois District

Incarnate Community Bible Study Leader's Guide

Session I Designed for Community

For Concrete Learners from



Helping congregations be more centered on a rich life of Word and Sacrament,
with congregational support in transitions as well as time of joys and sorrows.



Northern Illinois District
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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Focus Verse: *“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them” (Genesis 1:27). OR “Then the LORD God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him’” (Genesis 2:18).*

The blue questions and yes/no or the thumb up or thumb down responses are meant to be used with participants who think and operate on a more concrete level of understanding. They may be young, have intellectual disabilities, and perhaps nonverbal in their communication skills. This may be due to a variety of contributing factors such as: being on the autism spectrum, trauma from brain injury or stroke, or even age onset dysfunction like dementia or Alzheimer's.

Please adjust the level of questions to the level of function for your individual person. If they are able to communicate beyond the yes/no format, simply give them the opportunity to share by asking follow-up questions: Please explain, tell me why you think this, and let's talk more about this and others. For this person, the blue questions should be viewed as discussion starters. There are times when a series of questions are presented to lead up to a concept. Adjust any and all questions to the needs and abilities of your group or individual.

This format of questions and responses are presented with the belief that all members of the Body of Christ are able to learn, grow, and participate in spiritual growth and that intellectual or physical disabilities do not exclude them.

Welcome and Fellowship [15 – 30 minutes in a 90 minute time frame]

Opening Prayer: Gracious Heavenly Father, we give you thanks that in love and for love You have created us. You endowed our first parents, Adam and Eve, with Your image and blessed them to be together to joyfully share in work You had given



A Bible Study from the LCMS Northern Illinois District

humanity to do together. Lord, as we begin this journey to explore the gift You have given us in placing us in community, we ask that You would guide us by Your Holy Spirit. May He draw us near to Jesus, who redeemed us as Your creatures, and grow us in a deeper appreciation for how You have placed us together as Your family. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

By Design

We may not always appreciate it, or even notice it, but when something is well-designed, it brings blessings into our lives! I recently asked a few people to talk about something they believed was well-designed. One person noted their food processor. It was well-designed because it was adjustable, could be used for various foods, didn't take up much space, and is easily cleaned! Another person said they liked a computer app because it logically organized information and was easy to navigate and share information with others.

1. What is something you appreciate for its design?
2. What qualities make something well-designed?

Designed by God – Genesis 1:26-31; Genesis 2:15-25

1. How does God speak of His creating of humanity in Genesis 1:26-27?

When God speaks of creating people, He says, "let us make man in our image." This shows God is three in one.

Yes or No (or circle correct thumb)



By saying God is three in one, we mean God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and they are one God.

Yes or No (or circle correct thumb)



(Keep in mind this is a faith concept, so don't get caught up in explaining or understand how this could be.)



A Bible Study from the LCMS Northern Illinois District

2. What is the significance of God referring to Himself in both plural and singular pronouns? [See John 1:1-4 and Colossians 1:16-17]

God refers to Himself in both as one and more than one, He is speaking of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Yes or No (or circle correct thumb)



3. What does it mean that male and female were created in God's image? What do you think was God's purpose in creating creatures that bore His image?

Does being created in God's image mean that we look just like Him?

Yes or No (or circle correct thumb)



Were Adam and Eve created to live forever?

Yes or No (or circle correct thumb)



4. What clues does God give us in the Genesis 1 reading that God designed humanity to be in community?

Did God want Adam to take care of the animals and garden all by himself?

Yes or No (or circle correct thumb)



God wanted Adam and Eve to live as a family.



Yes or No (or circle correct thumb)





A Bible Study from the LCMS Northern Illinois District

5. How does God make His intentions more clear that humanity was intended to live in community in Genesis 2:18?

When God saw that Adam had no other people like him, God said this was a good thing.

Yes or No (or circle correct thumb)



God wanted Adam to be whole by living in marriage with Eve.

Yes or No (or circle correct thumb)



6. What would humanity accomplish as they bore the image of God together as community?

As families and community, people would be able to follow God's command to be fruitful and multiply, to take care of the earth and all of God's creation.

Yes or No (or circle correct thumb)



7. What indications do we have from the creation account that God intended community to be "incarnate," an in person experience? How is Adam and Eve joining together a further reflection of God's image?

Was Eve taken from Adam's head showing she was better than him?

Yes or No (or circle correct thumb)



Was Eve taken from Adam's foot to show Adam was better than Eve?

Yes or No (or circle correct thumb)



Eve was made from Adam's rib. The rib is close to the vital part of the body to protect them and yet are also needed to be protected as well. Is this a good example of how Adam and Eve are to care for one another?

Yes or No (or circle correct thumb)





A Bible Study from the LCMS Northern Illinois District

Enter Sin – Genesis 3:1-21

1. What does the serpent question in order to tempt Eve?

When Satan first tempts Eve, did he care about being able to eat the fruit of a tree?

Yes or No (or circle correct thumb)



Did Satan want Eve to question if God was keeping secrets?

Yes or No (or circle correct thumb)





A Bible Study from the LCMS Northern Illinois District

Was God keeping secrets from Adam and Eve?

Yes or No (or circle correct thumb)



2. Why is getting Eve away from God's Word important to Satan? [John 1:1-4] What was the result of Adam and Eve eating from the fruit according to Genesis 3:6-7? When we don't follow God's Word does that bring us closer to God?

Yes or No (or circle correct thumb)



When we follow our own words, thoughts, and ideas does that bring us closer to God?

Yes or No (or circle correct thumb)



We want to be closer to God so we should follow His Word.

Yes or No (or circle correct thumb)



3. Why do you think God asks Adam "Where are you?" in verse 9? When God asks Adam "Where are you?" did God not know where Adam was hiding?

Yes or No (or circle correct thumb)



Was God giving Adam a chance to come to Him and confess his wrong doings?

Yes or No (or circle correct thumb)



Can we hide from God?

Yes or No (or circle correct thumb)





A Bible Study from the LCMS Northern Illinois District

Does God want us to come to Him, even when we sin or are afraid?

Yes or No (or circle correct thumb)



4. How does sin bring separation/isolation into Adam and Eve's lives?

When we put our will above God's will this is called sin.

Yes or No (or circle correct thumb)





A Bible Study from the LCMS Northern Illinois District

Does sin get between us and God?

Yes or No (or circle correct thumb)



Did sin come between Adam and Eve?

Yes or No (or circle correct thumb)



If sin comes between us and God and then other people, does sin make us alone?

Yes or No (or circle correct thumb)



5. What are the many ways that our communities today still struggle with separation and isolation? What are some of the sad results?

Does sin come between us and God and other people, making us alone even today?

Yes or No (or circle correct thumb)



Is it good for people to be alone and separated?

Yes or No (or circle correct thumb)



6. Even in the curses that come with sin, how does the Lord demonstrate and promise His grace to humanity?

Did Adam and Eve sin when they disobeyed God?

Yes or No (or circle correct thumb)



Did God have the right to wipe them out and start over right then and there?

Yes or No (or circle correct thumb)





A Bible Study from the LCMS Northern Illinois District

Does God want to save just the “good people” who follow Him?

Yes or No (or circle correct thumb)



Is there anyone so good they can be saved without Jesus?

Yes or No (or circle correct thumb)



Is there a group of people who God loves more than others?

Yes or No (or circle correct thumb)



Does God love us and all people so much that He died in our place to save us?

Yes or No (or circle correct thumb)





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Final Thought

Our Lord had created out of love, and with creatures that were to reflect His image to the rest of creation, to one another in loving, life-giving community, and back to God in joyful service and praise, behold, it was very good. When our first parents reached out for themselves, over what God had given for them, their thoughts and actions turned away from God, each other, and all creation and brought sin, separation, and death. Yet, our Lord had intended that humanity would know Him ... know Him at the depth of His heart ... so even in the midst of sin, our Lord begins to reveal His heart of grace, promising to send in the flesh His chosen Messiah. He will not come aloof from humanity, isolated from our fallen lives in order to preserve Himself. Rather, God's chosen Messiah will have an incarnate and in person ministry in the midst of a family, a people, a community ... and with His acts of salvation He will mold His followers to have the same.



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