

PERSPECTIVES

TOOLS FOR CREATING A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW | ROMANS 12:2

OVERWHELMED

BY GOD'S GRACE & GENEROSITY

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WEEK 1: CALLED OUT

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

The origin of Water of Life wasn't about planning, but about broken people responding to God's grace and call. They saw themselves called to more than their career and being good, but as the ecclesia—called out to be the Church, a river of life, not a reservoir. **Revelation 22:1-7** became a defining vision, reminding them that everything rests on God's provision and grace, not strategy.

KEY VERSES

Look up these additional verses:

John 4:1-26

John 7:38

Ephesians 2:8-9

Revelations 22:1-7

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 Clinging to God

Water of Life's origins didn't begin with a clear, defined plan, but a group of people who were desperate for and obedient to God's move.

- a. Why do we desire for God to move in certainty? How does uncertainty actually draw us closer to Him?
- b. How do we stay in obedience even when it's uncertain? How can you rely on the truth that God is on your side?

2 We Are Called by God

God calls us, more than in a job or achievement, He calls us to be the Church, which is His people representing Christ in each setting of our life.

- a. In what ways do you feel called to do more than just your everyday role as a student or employee?
- b. In what ways have you, or might you begin to step into that calling?

3 Rivers not Reservoirs

Pastor explained that the founders of Water of Life began to believe that the Church should be a river not a reservoir.

- a. Is your life more like a *reservoir* (collecting for yourself) or a river (flowing outward)? Where do you see both at play?
- b. Who in your life right now might be thirsty for the water of life? How might you encourage them in this season they're in?

4 Trusting in God

God has a plan for each of us, yet it is easy to become reluctant, whether it be fear, anxiety, or doubt.

- a. When has fear, anxiety, or doubt made it hard for you to trust God's plan for your life?
- b. Looking back, can you think of a time when God's plan turned out better than what you imagined? How does that encourage you now?

Dependent on God

Founders of WOL, like the first church, knew they were called to more, yet it was dependent upon God's grace, not their own strength.

- a. Has there been a time that you've tried to handle a difficult task or issue alone? How did that go?
- b. In what ways can we be dependent on God's grace in our difficult tasks or issues?

DIVE DEEPER

Personal Reflection: God's call urges us to obey what is sometimes uncomfortable, which makes obedience hard.

- Where has God called you to obey, but you've put it off because it's hard?
- What is a step you can take towards obedience this week?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Yielding to God—This week:

- Ask God where He wants you to say "yes."
- Practice saying "yes" in the small things.

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you acknowledge His voice and choose obedience where it's hard.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

CLOSING SCRIPTURE

John 14:26, *"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."*

Let the group rest in that promise as you close together in prayer.



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WEEK 2: LET IT GO

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

God has always taught His people to depend on Him as their provider, often through counter-cultural, upside-down Kingdom principles. Jesus calls us to “let go” in order to truly live, and WOL’s journey of radical generosity—past and present—flows from learning this lesson of surrender.

KEY VERSES

Look up theses additional verses:

Exodus 25:1-3

Proverbs 19:17

Matthew 6:19-21

Matthew 16:21-28

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 Theme of Question

Jesus' Kingdom logic often turns the world's values on their head.

- a. Where in your life does Jesus' teaching feel "backward" compared to the world's wisdom?
- b. How might embracing these upside-down ways transform the way you handle your priorities, possessions, or relationships?

2 The Trust Exchange

In Exodus, God taught His people dependence on Him as their provider.

- a. What is hardest for you to trust God to provide?
- b. How does your trust in His provision affect your willingness to let things go?

3 Losing to Gain

In **Matthew 16:24-28**, Jesus says, *"If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me."*

- a. How might Jesus be calling you to deny yourself? Why?
- b. How do you know the difference between giving something up for God vs. just losing it?

4 Being Generous

Every big movement of generosity starts with a personal choice to release something.

- a. How do generosity and releasing something work together?
- b. In what ways could you be generous this week? (Ex., with time, expectations, etc.)

5 Making It New

God wants to renew what we surrender to Him.

- a. Where in your life are you longing for God to make something new?
- b. What would it look like to fully place that in His hands?

DIVE DEEPER

Personal Reflection: Trusting God to work by releasing control is risky, yet it is riskier to not let go.

- Do you think that God will not show up if you let go?
- If God didn't deliver the outcome you want, would you still obey?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Giving realistic application that'll challenge groups to live out.

Living Obediently—Each day this week, write down:

- Where is God asking you to let go (hurtful lifestyle, unforgiveness, expectation, etc.)?
- Where is God asking you to be generous?

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you let go and begin to live into what He has for you.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

CLOSING SCRIPTURE

John 14:27, *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."*

Let the group rest in that promise as you close together in prayer.

NOTES



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WEEK 3: GENEROUS GUARDRAILS

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

Jesus calls His followers to be givers who trust the Father's provision. Throughout Scripture, God sets "guardrails" around money—like generosity toward the poor and tithing—not to restrict us but to protect us from self-reliance and to form worshipful dependence. God's idea of a giving community means building a willing heart to give to those in need.

KEY VERSES

Look up these additional verses:

Leviticus 19:9-10 (NIV)

Deuteronomy 15:7-15 (NIV)

Matthew 7:1-5 (NIV)

Luke 6:37-38 (NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 **Treasuring the Right Things**

Jesus teaches that money can't be ignored, and it can bring blessings when surrendered correctly or cause fallout if mishandled.

- a. In what ways can money become an issue in our lives, and why is it important to recognize its influence?
- b. Reflect on your own relationship with money. How has it shaped your decisions?

2 **God's Protection, Not Restriction**

Throughout Scripture, God has been protecting His people from the dangers of a hard heart.

- a. Considering **Leviticus 19:9-10** and **Deuteronomy 15:7-15**, how is God asking us to treat our possessions and neighbors?
- b. What does this say about God? What does this mean for us as a larger community?

3 **Worship through Giving**

Giving is more than a financial transaction or gift of possessions—it's a declaration that He is God and we are not.

- a. Considering the verses prior: how does giving financially or giving up possessions assert that He is God and we are not?
- b. Where have we chosen to make idols of our finances or possessions? In what ways could we value these things less?

4 **Trusting with Little**

Jesus calls us to depend on our Heavenly Father above all else, even when we are struggling with our finances.

- a. Financial hardship exists. How can we choose to trust God and cast our worries on Him, even in financial hardship?
- b. How might we surround those in our community who are struggling?

5

God Cares about Others

God is not in the business of taking back His provision, but He is in the business of caring through us.

- a. How might God's compassionate heart for others change your perspective on giving?
- b. How can we adopt His values? How do we currently pass on this legacy to those around us?

DIVE DEEPER

Personal Reflection: It's easy to treasure possessions and overlook others, but God truly does want us to look out for each other, like family.

- When was a time you treasured your possessions over someone in need (friend, family, stranger, etc.)? How did this affect yourself and that relationship?
- What does that reveal about where your heart was? How is God trying to bring you back into alignment with His heart?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Giving realistic application that'll challenge groups to live out.

Ordering Values—This week, write down:

- What is the order of your values currently?
- How do you want your heart to be ordered?

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you order your values in alignment to His heart for you and others.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

CLOSING SCRIPTURE

Psalm 23:6, *"Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever..."*

Let the group rest in His promise as our Shepherd as you close in prayer.



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WEEK 4: DO IT AGAIN

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

Nehemiah and Paul both modeled unwavering commitment to God's calling—Nehemiah by staying focused on his mission despite opposition, and Paul by letting a radical encounter with Jesus reshape his entire life. Empowered by the Spirit's gifts, believers are invited into God's greater story to do Kingdom work. As *Water of Life* reflects on 35 years of God's faithfulness, our prayer is for Him to "do it again," continuing to equip His Church for what's next.

KEY VERSES

Look up these additional verses:

Nehemiah 6:1-3 (NIV)

Romans 12:6-16 (NIV)

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 (NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 "I Am Doing a Great Work"

Nehemiah did not quit from what God had called him to, even when urged, he said, *"I am doing a great work, and I am unable to come down."*

- a. When have you been tempted to quit something God called you to because it felt too difficult or costly? What tempted you to "come down?"
- b. What did you learn about faithfulness here? And how do you plan to stay in future difficulties?

2 Staying In

For Paul, he lived as if God's mission was the center of everything, not just a part of his life.

- a. How does knowing you are part of God's greatest story ever told change the way you see your everyday decisions?
- b. What is an area where you could intentionally align your actions closer with God's values to keep you rooted?

3 Equipped by the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit equips us with gifts meant to build up the Church and impact the world around us.

- a. How have you experienced someone else's spiritual gift making a difference in your life?
- b. Each gift is a good work to be used for others. What great work(s) is God calling you to use your gifts (caring for family, serving, being present, etc.)?

4 God's Move

If God has moved powerfully in the past, we can trust Him to move powerfully again.

- a. How has God moved in the past in such an obvious way that's hard to forget?
- b. In what areas in your life are you hoping He might move continuously?

DIVE DEEPER

Personal Reflection: We hear a lot about God's move, but sometimes we don't believe He can move like that with us.

- In what ways have you made it 'your fault' because God is not moving clearly?
- Do you think that God is blaming you or punishing you by being quiet? Why do you think that?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Living Consistently—Each day this week, write down and pray:

- Where you want God to show up
- Where God has and is showing up

Ask the Holy Spirit to recognize His move in your life and choose a heart of gratitude.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

CLOSING SCRIPTURE

Psalm 37:24-25, *"Because the Lord is the One who holds his hand. I have been young and now I am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his descendants begging bread."* (NASB)

Let the group rest in the promise that He does not forsake His people as you close together in prayer.

NOTES



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The Perspectives Curriculum is written by Small Groups
Volunteers at Water of Life Community Church.