

Frontline Distinctives: Five Development Tracks

Gospel-Centered

- **Week 1:**

- Slowly and meditatively read through Galatians 1-3
 - We would prefer you use the *New Living Translation*, to give a fresh perspective and to aim for it to impact your heart. Download a PDF [here](#).
- Listen to a lecture by Jack Miller (1928–1996) entitled “[Orphans, or Children of God?](#)” [48:15]
 - While Miller’s tone and cadence might be challenging—since Miller is from another time and another generation—we still encourage you to approach this lecture with expectancy, as Miller stands as perhaps the chief influence behind many of today’s most effective Christ-centered leaders.
 - Joni Eareckson Tada writes, “When people see my wheelchair, and ask about my smile; when they wonder how I’m able to couple a strict orthodoxy with an infectious joy in Jesus, I often parrot a principle I learned years ago from Jack Miller who said, ‘Cheer up, the Spirit of Jesus is at work in your weakness.’ Jack helped me see that you could be a stalwart Calvinist and, at the same time, praise the Lord like a happy Pentecostal... even in the middle of pain and quadriplegia.”
- After listening to the lecture, you will work through [this PDF packet](#), which will guide you through:
 - Completing the “Orphans, or Children of God” exercise,
 - Reading a brief article entitled “My Father’s Shirt,” and
 - Answering the following eleven reflection questions included with context and explanations in that PDF packet. (Please email your written responses to your development group leaders.)
 - 1. Complete the “Orphans, or Children of God?” exercise at the end of this document. Write down your impressions.
 - 2. Describe, in your own words, what it looks like for you to be like a spiritual orphan.
 - 3. From the “Orphans, or Children of God?” chart, list the five characteristics of a spiritual orphan that are most applicable to you.
 - 4. Pick one of the characteristics you just chose, and describe a specific and recent example in your life that illustrates how you’ve responded like an orphan.
 - 5. Describe a recent time when, by faith and humility, you responded like a son or daughter instead.
 - 6. As you work through this project, where would you like to see God change you? Write down at least three specific areas. In addition, ask a friend to pray about these things with you.
 - 7. Identify and describe an area of your life where you sense a lack of deep, spiritual joy. Why do you think you’ve lost this joy?
 - 8. Think of two recent examples when you’ve sought the approval of other people. What were the circumstances? What did you do?
 - 9. How are we acting like spiritual orphans when we depend on the approval of others?
 - 10. As you reflect honestly on your life, do you live as though you really believe God approves of you? Explain your answer; try to think of both positive and negative examples.
 - 11. Where do you think the power for spiritual transformation comes from? How do we access that power?

- **Week 2:**

- Slowly and meditatively read through Galatians 4-6
 - We would prefer you use the *New Living Translation*, to give a fresh perspective and to aim for it to impact your heart. Download a PDF [here](#).
- Read “[Chapter 12: Feeling Loved](#),” from *The Singing God*, by Sam Storms

- Share your written responses to the “Orphans, or Children of God” reflection questions (along with the results of the accompanying exercise) with a trusted friend.
 - Come prepared to share at least three specific areas you would like to see God change you.
 - Invite them to pray for you on the spot.
 - Schedule a follow-up meeting with them to allow them check in and pray for you again, as well as to take stock of, and give thanks for, evidences of grace.
- **Week 3:**
 - Spend this week trying to memorize Galatians 4:4-5
 - Read “[Chapter 13: The Joy of Receiving God’s Love](#),” from *The Singing God*, by Sam Storms
 - Work through the following “Prayerful Contemplation” created by pastor and author Scotty Smith. Take your Bible and a journal. Block out two hours. Find a quiet place where you won’t be interrupted, perhaps in nature. Leave your phone in the car. Work through the following questions. To allow you to leave screens behind, you can print off a copy of the exercise [here](#), or simply copy the questions down in your journal ahead of time.
 - 1. As a child, where did you feel most known and loved, desired and safe? Who gave you your first taste of welcome and acceptance?
 - 2. When did acceptance begin to move from a given reality to an earned one? In other words, when do you first remember feeling like you didn’t measure up—that you weren’t doing enough or being enough?
 - 3. What were your earliest thoughts about God? Was he someone to trust or avoid? How has your understanding about God’s acceptance of you changed over the years?
 - 4. Where do you tend to turn when God’s acceptance doesn’t seem to be enough to fill your deep longing for acceptance and peace?
 - 5. Who introduced you to the radical mercy and grace of God?
 - 6. Where are you currently in your journey of coming alive to God’s lavish love for you in Jesus?
- **Week 4:**
 - Read “[All of Life is Repentance](#)” by Tim Keller
 - Read “[How To Build a Gospel Culture In Your Church](#)” by Ray Ortland
 - Read [paraphrase](#) of Martin Luther’s preface to his *Commentary on Galatians*
- **Capstone Project:**
 - Over the course of this month, as you reflect on what it means to be gospel-centered, we would like you to use some medium to heartfully communicate two things: (1) Your feelings towards Jesus, and (2) Jesus’ feelings towards you. This could be a reflection on what you have learned, or simply a reflection of your current desires and feelings.
 - Most simply, this will look like a letter that you write to Jesus. But this could be done in other artistic forms, like songwriting, drawing, painting, poetry, etc.

Bible-Honoring

- **Week 1:**

- Read Psalm 119:1-48
 - Take a section each day, and actively try to meditate on it. Read it slowly. Recall it throughout the day. If possible, try to read the same section in the morning, noon, and evening.
- Read "[The Morning I Heard the Voice of God](#)" by John Piper
- Begin a rhythm of regular, habitual Bible reading. If you've never been taught how to do this, we encourage you to first look over the simple one-page guide entitled "[How to Have a Quiet Time](#)" by Timothy Keller.
 - Establish a reading plan, including typical time and place. If you already have a plan, take time to evaluate your approach. Is it working? Is it fruitful? Does something need to change? How could you make this time more fruitful?
 - Reading Plan Options:
 - [Discipleship Journal Reading Plan](#): One of our favorite reading plans! By reading from four separate places in the Scriptures every day, you will get a better grasp of the unity of the Scriptures. And you can begin at any point of the year. Only 25 readings per month, allowing for make-up days or Scripture memorization on the off days.
 - [Read Scripture](#): This plan is a one year, semi-chronological look at the Bible, with daily Psalms readings alongside the regular reading.
 - [Chapter by Chapter](#): This is an at your own pace reading plan, that takes the Bible in order, chapter by chapter
 - [Chronological](#): This plan is a one year read through the Bible in the order the events took place.
 - [Shirkers and Slackers](#): This Bible reading plan assigns a genre for each day of the week. Miss a day? No big deal. Just pick up with whatever day of the week you are on.
 - [Daily Office Lectionary](#): The Book of Common Prayer used by the Anglican Church has daily readings of Scripture, which can be used in a one year or two year cycle. Sections from the Apocrypha could be substituted for a different section of the Old Testament.

- **Week 2:**

- Read Psalm 119:49-88
 - Take a section each day, and actively try to meditate on it. Read it slowly. Recall it throughout the day. If possible, try to read the same section in the morning, noon, and evening.
- Read "[Reading the Bible for Personal Application](#)" by David Powlison
- Praying the Bible
 - Take the following Scriptures, and use them as fuel for your prayers this week. Take one Scripture each day. Read it. Meditate on it. Slowly pray through it. Then be open for God to respond.
 - Psalm 1
 - Psalm 34
 - Psalm 139
 - Matthew 6:9-13
 - Acts 4:24-30
 - Ephesians 3:14-21
 - Colossians 1:9-12

- **Week 3:**

- Read Psalm 119:89-136
 - Take a section each day, and actively try to meditate on it. Read it slowly. Recall it throughout the day. If possible, try to read the same section in the morning, noon, and evening.
- Read "[Chapter 1: Introduction: The Need to Interpret](#)," from *How To Read the Bible for All Its Worth*, by Gordon Fee
- Read Colossians 1:15-23 and answer the following questions.
 - 1. What is the passage saying?

- What is the context of the book/letter?
 - Who wrote it? To whom? What kind of literature?
 - What is the context of the passage?
 - What is the author talking about before this? What is the author talking about after this?
 - What do these words actually mean?
 - Put what the passage says into your own words.
 - 2. How does the passage point to the person and work of Jesus? (The following categories are from Christ-Centered Preaching by Bryan Chapell.)
 - Predictive of the work of Jesus
 - Does it point forward to the person and work of Jesus? Is it a type or shadow that has its fulfillment in Jesus?
 - Preparatory for the work of Jesus
 - Does it shape our hearts to receive the person and work of Jesus? Does it show my inadequacy and great need for a Savior?
 - Reflective of the work of Jesus
 - Does it look back on the person and work of Jesus? Is it giving me handles for applying the work of Jesus today?
 - Resultant of the work of Jesus
 - Does it show the results of the person and work of Jesus? Is it pointing forward to the completion of the work of Jesus?
 - 3. How should it apply today?
 - What does this teach me about God and myself?
 - What sins should I repent of?
 - What promises to believe or hold on to?
 - What action do I need to take for my life?
- **Week 4:**
 - Read Psalm 119:137-176
 - Take a section each day, and actively try to meditate on it. Read it slowly. Recall it throughout the day. If possible, try to read the same section in the morning, noon, and evening.
 - Listen to Christ In All of Scripture, Pt. 1 and 2 (Frontline All Team recordings)
 - [Christ in All of Scripture, Pt. 1](#)
 - [Christ in All of Scripture, Pt. 2](#)
 - Read Judges 3:12-30 and answer the same questions found in Week 3.
 - **Capstone Project:**
 - Over the course of this module, you will choose a chapter of Scripture from the list below to memorize. At the end of the month, you will recite the Scripture for your development group leader.
 - Psalm 91
 - Psalm 103
 - Isaiah 40
 - Isaiah 53
 - Matthew 5
 - John 3
 - John 17
 - Romans 8
 - Ephesians 2
 - Hebrews 11
 - James 1
 - The following are resources to help you with Scripture memorization:
 - [The Verses Project](#)
 - [Ten Reasons To Memorize Big Chunks of the Bible](#)
 - [An Approach to Extended Memorization of Scripture](#)

Spirit-Filled

- **Week 1:**

- Read Acts 1-7
 - Aim to read a chapter each day. As you read, think on the following questions:
 - How is the Holy Spirit active and at work in this passage? What would have ceased to happen if the Holy Spirit stopped working?
 - How did the Apostles respond to the working of the Holy Spirit? How would you respond if this happened to you today?
 - What is the Holy Spirit speaking to you now through this passage? In other words, are there things that stand out, pictures that come to mind, places you are feeling conviction, etc.?
 - Read "[Chapter 25: Conclusion](#)," from *The Holy Spirit*, by Gregg Allison and Andreas Köstenberger.
 - Aim to consciously rely on the Spirit throughout the day.
 - Oftentimes, we forget the power and presence of the Holy Spirit with us. Each day, take intentional moments throughout the day to remind yourself of the Spirit, and to rely on him. Try to be consciously aware of him throughout the day.
 - Each morning, noon, and evening, take five minutes to slow down. Remind yourself that the Spirit dwells in you and with you. Ask the Spirit to guide you and strengthen you and empower you.

- **Week 2:**

- Read Acts 8-14
 - Aim to read a chapter each day. As you read, think on the following questions:
 - How is the Holy Spirit active and at work in this passage? What would have ceased to happen if the Holy Spirit stopped working?
 - How did the Apostles respond to the working of the Holy Spirit? How would you respond if this happened to you today?
 - What is the Holy Spirit speaking to you now through this passage? In other words, are there things that stand out, pictures that come to mind, places you are feeling conviction, etc.?
 - Read "[Chapter 5: Charismatic](#)," from *Spirit and Sacrament*, by Andrew Wilson.
 - Reflect on the following questions:
 - What spiritual gifts do you currently have, and how do you practice them? Are there ways that you could more faithfully exercise these gifts? If you are unsure about your spiritual gifts, ask your family, friends, and community for their input.
 - What spiritual gifts do you earnestly desire? How are you pursuing these gifts?
 - Are there some spiritual gifts that make you feel uncomfortable? Why? If possible, identify someone you know who practices this gift and ask them about it. Ask what they experience and how they feel when they practice that gift.
 - Would you be willing to ask the Spirit to give you a spiritual gift that makes you uncomfortable?

- **Week 3:**

- Read Acts 15-21
 - Aim to read a chapter each day. As you read, think on the following questions:
 - How is the Holy Spirit active and at work in this passage? What would have ceased to happen if the Holy Spirit stopped working?
 - How did the Apostles respond to the working of the Holy Spirit? How would you respond if this happened to you today?
 - What is the Holy Spirit speaking to you now through this passage? In other words, are there things that stand out, pictures that come to mind, places you are feeling conviction, etc.?
 - Read "[Chapter 5: Practicing the Power of Healing](#)," from *Practicing the Power*, by Sam Storms
 - Pray for the Sick
 - This week, be attentive to pray for the sick. If you interact with someone who has some sickness, from a headache to cancer, ask if you can pray for them on the spot. In faith, ask for God to heal them.

- **Week 4:**

- Read Acts 22-28
 - Aim to read a chapter each day. As you read, think on the following questions:
 - How is the Holy Spirit active and at work in this passage? What would have ceased to happen if the Holy Spirit stopped working?
 - How did the Apostles respond to the working of the Holy Spirit? How would you respond if this happened to you today?
 - What is the Holy Spirit speaking to you now through this passage? In other words, are there things that stand out, pictures that come to mind, places you are feeling conviction, etc.?
- Read "[Chapter 8: Principles for Prophecy Today](#)," from *Practicing the Power*, by Sam Storms
- Practice listening and prophetic prayer
 - Many times, the Spirit is speaking, but we aren't listening. Take time each day to practice listening prayer. In particular, ask for prophetic words of encouragement and upbuilding. This may come as a word, a picture, an impression that God spontaneously brings to mind.
 - No matter how strange or out there it seems, write down anything that seems it may be from the Lord, for you or for others.
- **Capstone Project:**
 - Prophetic Exercise.
 - Pray through the list of prophetic words you've worked on in Week 4. Pick at least one of them that seems for someone else, take a risk, and share the word for the person. Before you do, talk to your development group leaders about what you are wanting to share and get their feedback. When you share, be sure to ask them if what you shared means anything to them. Regardless of whether it does or not, pray for them.
 - Afterwards, write about your experience.

Kingdom-Focused

- **Week 1:**
 - Read Matthew 5-7
 - Reflect on what Jesus is teaching about the kingdom of God in this passage.
 - Read [The Kingdom of God](#), by Stephen Um (17 pp.)
 - Read "[Chapter 1: Road Map to the Big Ideas](#)," from *Work That Makes a Difference*, by Dan Doriani
 - Reflect: After reading the chapter, spend two or three minutes in silent reflection, writing down ideas that spoke to you or described your experience at work. As a guide, use the categories Do, Be, Go, See. (Email your written response to your development group leader.)
 - 1. *Do*: What new action do I need to try at work? What habit might I need to stop?
 - 2. *Be*: What did I learn about my character?
 - 3. *Go*: Did the study of Scripture lead me toward a goal I want to pursue?
 - 4. *See*: How can I view my work the way Scripture does?
- **Week 2:**
 - Read Matthew 13
 - Reflect on what Jesus is teaching about the kingdom of God in this passage.
 - Read "[Chapter 2: Work, Good Work, and the Best Work](#)," from *Work That Makes a Difference*, by Dan Doriani
 - Reflect: Assess your work based on the points from chapter two. (Email your written responses to your development group leaders.)
 - 1. Name specific ways your work benefits people or brings them joy.
 - 2. Are you glad or ashamed to tell people what you do? Explain your answer.
 - 3. Can you pray, "Lord, bless my work today"? Why or why not?
 - 4. What harm would come if no one did your job?
 - Set up a phone call with [Kori Hall](#) to talk about *Push Back Darkness Grants*. Take space this week to brainstorm ideas for a *Push Back Darkness Grant* for which your community group could [apply](#).
- **Week 3:**
 - Read Luke 15-16
 - Reflect on what Jesus is teaching about the kingdom of God in this passage.
 - Read "[Chapter 3: Work, Created and Fallen](#)," from *Work That Makes a Difference*, by Dan Doriani
 - Reflect: Read "[Leading Your Community Towards Feasting With the Poor](#)" and complete accompanying [online reflection questions](#). Forward a copy of your completed answers to your development group leaders. (A copy of your submission will be auto-delivered to your inbox).
- **Week 4:**
 - Read Matthew 25
 - Reflect on what Jesus is teaching about the kingdom of God in this passage.
 - Read "[Chapter 4: Work Redeemed](#)," from *Work That Makes a Difference*, by Dan Doriani
- **Capstone Project: Plan a Missional Gathering**
 - Throw a party for your lost friends. Plan an event with your community group to which you can invite your non-Christian friends and work colleagues. As a community, we not only speak the gospel, we live it through hospitality and deeds of love and kindness. This is an opportunity for your friends to spend time with your Christian community, and for you as a community to practice hospitality. (Taken from *Gospel in Life Study Guide: Grace Changes Everything*, Zondervan.)
 - In the Old Testament, hospitality is part of normal and common practice. For example, in Genesis 18 Abraham is quick and ready to offer hospitality to the strangers who arrive near his home. When Jesus sends out the twelve disciples, he expects that they will be shown hospitality (Mark 6:8–11). We are also called to "Practice hospitality" (Rom. 12:13) and to "Offer hospitality to one another" (1 Peter 4:9). This verse also tells us to do hospitality "without grumbling." Genesis 18:5 tells us the goal of the one giving hospitality is to refresh and encourage others.
 - Hospitality done well is generous, uncomplaining, loving, and refreshing. It does not make guests feel like "guests" but like members of a family. Hospitality provides a feeling of security, warmth, safety, and love.
 - As you plan your event, think about atmosphere, the process of welcoming guests, food—everything that will make your guests feel relaxed and comfortable. This event will involve time, planning, and prayer.

- Ideas for events:
 - Watch a sport—either live or on TV
 - Play a sport
 - Go to an event (e.g., theater, museum exhibit, art gallery exhibit, and so on)
 - Plan a trip to the beach or to an historical monument
 - Put together a movie night
 - Organize a meal at someone's home, or a barbecue, or a dinner at a new restaurant
 - Get together to watch a special event on TV (e.g., an election, an awards show)
 - If a member of the group has a skill or talent, organize an activity around that (e.g., some kind of art or dance class)
 - If a group member is trained in a particular area, plan an event around that expertise (e.g., a talk on parenting or stress or fashion or whatever topic would interest your friends)
 - If Frontline is planning events that would suit your friends, invite them to those (e.g., a talk on marriage enrichment or financial planning)
 - Organize an event around a specific current news issue that everyone is discussing and give a Christian viewpoint on the topic (e.g., a debate on a current bestseller)
- If for whatever reason you cannot plan an event, then pick a Sunday service for your group to attend together and invite your friends and work colleagues to it. Have a meal or coffee together after the service.
- As a group, decide on the type of event you would like to host and when in the following weeks you are able to host it. Make a list of action steps for the event and divide these responsibilities among your community group's members.
- Finally, pray for your event, for all the preparations necessary, for your friends to come, and for God to use the event to further his kingdom and bring more people into his household!

Gender-Redeeming

- **Week 1:**
 - Read "[Being a Gender-Redeeming Church](#)"
 - Watch "[A Biblical Theology of Male-ness](#)" by Andrew Wilson [43:02]
 - Think of men in your life who have been godly role models of masculinity. Reach out to them this week to bless them and affirm them for how they lived out the essence of their gender.
- **Week 2:**
 - Watch "[A Biblical Theology of Female-ness](#)" by Andrew Wilson [44:14]
 - Read "[4 Ways Brothers Can Encourage Their Sisters in Ministry](#)" by Melissa Kruger
 - Read "[How to Spot a Spiritual Mother](#)" by Jennie Pollock
 - Think of women in your life who have been godly role models of femininity. Reach out to them this week to bless them and affirm them for how they lived out the essence of their gender.
- **Week 3:**
 - Read Genesis 1-3 and reflect on what this teaches us about gender.
 - Read "[Chapter 3: Male and Female He Created Them: The Body and Biological Sex](#)," from *What God Has to Say about Our Bodies: How the Gospel Is Good News for Our Physical Selves*, by Sam Alberry
 - Reflect on your family of origin and how gender was reflected there. As an exercise, write a hypothetical letter to a same-sex parent, guardian, or role model. (This letter is not intended to be shared with the person—it is only for your personal reflection.)
 - Write about how they reflected their gender, and what you will (1) receive, (2) reject, or (3) redeem about their example to you of masculinity or femininity.
 - Email the completed letter to your development group leaders.
- **Week 4:**
 - Read Titus 2:1-8 and reflect on what this teaches us about gender.
 - Read "[Chapter 4: God Formed the Man: The Body and Gender](#)," from *What God Has to Say about Our Bodies: How the Gospel Is Good News for Our Physical Selves*, by Sam Alberry
 - Meet with one of your development group leaders to process your remaining questions and concerns.
 - **Capstone Project:** Write a letter about male or female essence.
 - Imagine writing a letter to a child of your same gender. This could be your own child, a student, a younger sibling, a niece or nephew, etc. Write a half-page explanation to them of their masculine or feminine essence. In other words, how would you explain to a child what it means for them to be a woman or a man?
 - Email the completed letter to your development group leaders.
- **Bonus Material:** Watch "[Sexual Intimacy](#)," by Leslie Poe, *Frontline Marriage Symposium* [32:06]