

CHURCHWIDE STUDY

WE BELIEVE

JANUARY 25-MARCH 1, 2026
IN SERVICE ON SUNDAYS
& IN GROUPS DURING THE WEEK

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WE BELIEVE

Welcome to **Gateway's six-week, church-wide study, We Believe**, a journey through the core doctrines of the Christian faith, shaped by Phylicia Masonheimer's *Basics of Theology*. Over these next weeks, our entire church family will walk together through sermons, small group discussions, and deeper-dive Sunday Night Seminar designed to help us understand what Christians have believed for centuries and why it matters today.

For many believers, the word *theology* can feel intimidating. Some worry it's too academic, some feel overwhelmed by unfamiliar terms, some fear disagreement, and some quietly assume it's for "experts" only. Yet Scripture reminds us that *all* believers are called to grow in their knowledge of God. Paul writes to Timothy, saying: "*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness...*" (2 Timothy 3:16–17 NIV). Theology - what we believe about God - shapes every thought, decision, hope, and habit of our lives.

At Gateway, we believe that building a foundation in biblical doctrine is essential for every Christian's walk with Jesus. That doesn't mean every topic is simple or every question is easy to resolve, but it *does* mean theology is accessible, beautiful, and deeply practical. Our goal in this series is to give a clear, 10,000-foot view of the most important doctrines of the Christian faith, not so high that it feels irrelevant, and not so detailed that we lose the big picture.

Each week, we will explore a major theme: why theology matters, the trustworthiness of Scripture, the nature of God, the nature of humanity, the gift of salvation, and the calling to live out our faith. These doctrines are not just ideas for scholars or debates for classrooms; they shape the lives of everyday Christians, influence how we worship, and guide how we engage the world around us.

The church is made up of people: people seeking truth, hope, purpose, and transformation. And because what we believe about God touches every part of who we are, these teachings speak directly to the challenges and questions we all face. Doctrine leads to devotion, and knowing God more deeply fuels a life that reflects Him.

So, take a deep breath and lean in. Over these six weeks, we'll explore what Christians have believed for thousands of years, and why those truths still matter for the church and for each of us today.

Blessings,



Jason Smith
Lead Pastor

WE BELIEVE

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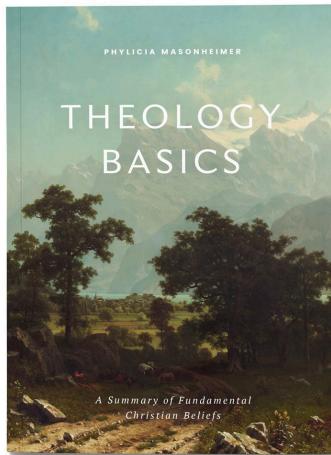
RESOURCES

THIS GUIDE

Find weekly readings, topics, discussion questions and deeper dive information.

THE BOOK

Each week you will read from *Theology Basics* to learn more before group discussion. **The book is available in paperback at Gateway for \$10 (quantities are limited), or purchase the E-Book [here](#).**



E-Book

QUESTIONS?

Visit gateway.cc/webelieve for links to this guide, groups, the book, and Sunday messages.

WEEK 1-JANUARY 25-31, 2026

WHY THEOLOGY MATTERS

SUNDAY MORNING

Worship at 9:30 or 11 AM to start off the church-wide series with a message about how theology affects each and every believer. *Miss the sermon? Watch it [here](#)!*



SMALL GROUPS

Read *Introduction* and *What is Theology?* (pp. 7-12).

Discuss

Phylicia writes that every person already has a theology, whether they realize it or not.

1. What beliefs or assumptions about God did you hold before intentionally studying Scripture?
2. How might personal experiences (family, church background, pain, comfort, politics) have shaped those beliefs?
3. Why is it dangerous to leave theology unchecked?
4. The book states clearly: “The goal of studying theology is not to prove us right... but intimacy with God.” Why do you think knowing true things about God leads to deeper love for him?

DEEPER DIVE

Keep studying with these options. Choose one or both - it's up to you!

Attend Sunday Night Seminar to learn and grow together through deeper conversation and reflection. We'll meet in the **Coffee Shop at 6pm** - feel free to bring your dinner and come as you are.

Watch on YouTube by clicking these links or scanning the QR code.

- [How to Think Theologically About Everything! With Phylicia Masonheimer](#)
- [Know Your Theology - Phylicia Masonheimer on LIFE Today Live](#)



WEEK 2-FEBRUARY 1-7, 2026

THE BIBLE - CAN WE TRUST IT?

SUNDAY MORNING

Worship at 9:30 or 11 AM to begin the week with a message about the trustworthiness of the Bible. *Miss the sermon? Watch it [here!](#)*



SMALL GROUPS

Read *Bibliology* (pp. 13-18).

Discuss

1. Does this definition of inerrancy challenge you? Why or why not?
2. How does the accuracy of the Bible affect your view of God and His Word?
3. If the Bible is not accurate or trustworthy, what alternatives do we have? What effect does that have on our faith?

DEEPER DIVE

Keep studying with these options. Choose one or both - it's up to you!

Attend Sunday Night Seminar to learn and grow together through deeper conversation and reflection. We'll meet in the **Coffee Shop at 6pm** - feel free to bring your dinner and come as you are.

Watch on YouTube by clicking this link or scanning the QR code.

- [Wrestling with Faith: Can I Trust The Bible? - Phylicia Masonheimer](#)



WEEK 3-FEBRUARY 8-14, 2026

THE NATURE OF GOD

SUNDAY MORNING

Worship at 9:30 or 11 AM and hear a message about the triune God. *Miss the sermon? Watch it here!*



SMALL GROUPS

Read *Theology: The Nature of God* (pp. 19-22).

Discuss

1. If God is not triune, how does this impact our daily walk with Him?
2. If God is triune, how does this impact our daily walk with Him?
3. How is the Trinity a foundation for the Christian ethics of love and unity?
4. What would happen if one Person of the Trinity were removed? What effect would that have on Christianity?

DEEPER DIVE

Keep studying with these options. Choose one or all three - it's up to you!

AFTERNOON

Attend Sunday Night Seminar to learn and grow together through deeper conversation and reflection. We'll meet in the **Coffee Shop** at **12:15pm due to the Super Bowl** - feel free to bring your lunch.

Dive further into God's nature by continuing the chapter (pp. 23-38).

Listen on Spotify by clicking this link or scanning the QR code.

- [Calvinism and Arminianism: An Overview - Verity by Phylicia Masonheimer](#)



WEEK 4-FEBRUARY 15-21, 2026

THE NATURE OF HUMANITY

SUNDAY MORNING

Worship at 9:30 or 11 AM and dive into the contradiction of humanity - we bear His image, but are fallen. *Miss the sermon? Watch it [here!](#)*



SMALL GROUPS

Read *Anthropology* (pp. 39-41).

Discuss

1. How does knowing you are an 'idol' or image of God change your view of yourself?
2. If we embrace the fact that we represent God on earth, how does this change the choices we make, if at all?
3. Some scholars believe moral discernment and intellectual ability make us the image of God. Do you agree or disagree? What impact does this view have on the unborn or mentally handicapped?

DEEPER DIVE

Keep studying with these options. Choose one or all three - it's up to you!

Attend Sunday Night Seminar to learn and grow together through deeper conversation and reflection. We'll meet in the **Coffee Shop at 6pm** - feel free to bring your dinner and come as you are.

Dive further into human nature by continuing the chapter (pp. 42-48).

Watch on YouTube by clicking this link or scanning the QR code.

- [Episode 171: All the "Easy" Convos ft. Phylicia Masonheimer](#)



WEEK 5-FEBRUARY 22-28, 2026

THE NATURE OF SALVATION

SUNDAY MORNING

Worship at 9:30 or 11 AM and dive into the truth of how we “earn” salvation. *Miss the sermon? Watch it [here!](#)*



SMALL GROUPS

Read *Soteriology* (pp. 49-54).

Discuss

1. What are the biblical pros and cons of the Catholic/Orthodox view of salvation?
2. What are the biblical pros and cons of the Calvinistic view of salvation?
3. What are the biblical pros and cons of the Arminian view of salvation?
4. How does your understanding of salvation affect your daily walk with Jesus?

DEEPER DIVE

Keep studying with these options. Choose one or all three - it's up to you!

Attend Sunday Night Seminar to learn and grow together through deeper conversation and reflection. We'll meet in the **Coffee Shop at 6pm** - feel free to bring your dinner and come as you are.

Dive further into salvation by continuing the chapter (pp. 55-65).

Listen on Spotify by clicking this link or scanning the QR code. Click the Resource link below to access a PDF resource on the episode.

- [Seven Views of the Atonement - Verity with Phylicia Masonheimer](#)
[Seven Views of the Atonement Resources](#)



WEEK 6-MARCH 1-7, 2026

LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

SUNDAY MORNING

Worship at 9:30 or 11 AM to begin discussion on how theology can transform your life. *Miss the sermon? Watch it [here](#)!*



SMALL GROUPS

Read *Sanctification and Christian Life* (pp. 66-68).

Discuss

1. How does our justified identity (we are saints saved by Christ) impact our journey to becoming more holy?
2. How do we bear the fruit of the Spirit in our lives?
3. What should a sanctified Christian life look like?
4. Is entire sanctification possible? Why or why not?

DEEPER DIVE

Keep studying with these options. Choose one or both - it's up to you!

Attend Sunday Night Seminar to learn and grow together through deeper conversation and reflection. We'll meet in the **Coffee Shop at 6pm** - feel free to bring your dinner and come as you are.

Watch on YouTube by clicking these links or scanning the QR code.

- [Why What You Believe Really Matters - Grounded with Phylicia Masonheimer](#)
- [Christians Are Spoon-fed - Purpose Podcast ft. Phylicia Masonheimer](#)



NEXT STEPS

KEEP MEETING

Whether you completed this study with a group you've been in for a while, a new group, or on your own, groups are how Christians "do life" together. We weren't made to be alone.

If you have questions about starting a new group, studies for groups, or finding a group, visit gateway.cc/groups or contact Gateway's Groups Admin, Mariel, at mgodeaux@gateway.cc.

KEEP LEARNING

Whether you participated in the deeper dives or not, don't let your learning stop today.

Resources:

- *Simply Christian* - N.T. Wright
- *Mere Christianity* - C.S. Lewis
- *You Are a Theologian* - J.T. English & Jen Wilkin
- *The Case for Christianity Answer Book* - Lee Strobel
- *Every Woman a Theologian* - Phylicia Masonheimer

KEEP ASKING

If you have questions, you're probably not alone! Send your questions to info@gateway.cc.

