



DISCOVER GOD

IN 8 WEEKS



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DISCOVER GOD

IN 8 WEEKS

This booklet belongs to:

A WARM WELCOME TO “DISCOVER GOD IN 8 WEEKS”!

Are you familiar with these moments when the business of everyday life fades away – during a holiday, a cozy evening with friends or while you are enjoying a solitary moment?

Do you know this feeling of powerlessness when a painful stroke of fate tosses you out of your ordinary track of life?

Have you ever experienced a great sense of awe when gazing up into a starry sky, and this making you wonder: “Who has put our tiny planet here? Could there be someone out there who has something to do with me? Where do I come from, and where does my journey lead to? What is the purpose of my life here, considering the infinity of the universe?”

I wish you many enlightening moments with your “Discover God” group during the next eight weeks. It is my desire and my prayer as well that you will find answers to the most relevant questions in life.

I'm glad to have you on board this journey of discovery!

With warm wishes,
Leo Bigger

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leo Bigger'. The signature is stylized and fluid, with a large loop at the end. It is positioned on a light-colored rectangular background.

INTRODUCTION

INPUTS

At each of the “Discover God” meetings you **can read through the weekly** input together. This will provide you with food for thought and warm-up questions leading to the discussion.

DISCUSSION TIME

The host of the “Discover God” group will lead the discussions that are hopefully be very deep!

Be open and direct. Say what you think, what is on your mind, and do not be shy to voice out critical as well as confirming thoughts without being shy. Your personal contribution plays an important role to whether or not the meetings will be interesting.

BOOKLET

Use your booklet for notes, questions and personal additions.

MY DISCOVER GOD GROUP MEETS ON THE FOLLOWING DATES AND TIME:

CHAPTER 1

Life – Is there more to it than this? Time / Date: _____

CHAPTER 2

Life – What is the deeper meaning? Time / Date: _____

CHAPTER 3

Suffering – Why does God allow it to happen? Time / Date: _____

CHAPTER 4

Evil – Where is its origin? Time / Date: _____

CHAPTER 5

Jesus – Who is he and why did he die? Time / Date: _____

CHAPTER 6

Prayer – How can I approach God? Time / Date: _____

CHAPTER 7

The Bible – Is it trustworthy? Time / Date: _____

CHAPTER 8

The church – What is its significance? Time / Date: _____

At the end of the eight weeks we will spend a "Discover God" day together. This day is optional, just like every meeting, and should offer the possibility of more time and space to ask further questions on the journey of discovery.

Date and time for the "Discover God day:

CHAPTER

1

LIFE

IS THERE MORE TO
IT THAN THIS?

EVIDENCE OF GOD'S EXISTENCE

THE COSMOLOGICAL EXPLANATION

Behind every invention is an intelligent inventor.

THE TELEOLOGICAL EXPLANATION

Every creation has its creator. The wonders of nature help us in recognizing his ingenuity.

Romans 1:20

"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse."

THE MORAL EXPLANATION

Each human being has a conscience. God has planted this small voice in our hearts to enable us to distinguish good and evil.

THE PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH GOD

Many people testify to having an intimate friendship with God and experiencing him personally.

Psalms 145:18

"The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth."

QUESTION

"DO YOU BELIEVE IN GOD'S EXISTENCE?"

YOU ARE NOT A PRODUCT OF COINCIDENCE

Isaiah 44:2

"This is what the Lord says— he who made you, who formed you in the womb, and who will help you."

Augustine (church father and philosopher, 430 A.D.): "People travel to wonder at the height of the mountains, at the huge waves of the seas, at the long course of the rivers, at the vast compass of the ocean, at the circular motion of the stars, but yet they pass by themselves without wondering. You bypass your own miracle without recognizing that you are a miracle of God."

Thus, God has created each and every human being and entrusted us with the gift of life. You are free to live your life with or without God.

YOU ARE FREE TO PLAN YOUR LIFE

CONCEPTS OF LIFE WHICH HELP TO MAKE THE MOST OF IT:

- ★ Money and wealth
- ★ Education and knowledge
- ★ Spouse, family and relationships
- ★ Career
- ★ Fun and pleasure

These concepts often don't seem to work. Many people strive for a fulfilled and meaningful life.

JESUS SAYS:

John 10:10b

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

GOD HAS GOT MORE TO OFFER YOU

The Christian message is a joyful one. That is what the word gospel means. The good news is: God loves you!

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

ONLY IN GOD CAN WE FIND:

- ★ our origin
- ★ our identity
- ★ our purpose
- ★ our significance
- ★ our goal

C.S. Lewis:

"Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important."

QUESTIONS

«ACCORDING TO WHICH CONCEPT DO YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE? WITH WHAT ARE YOU CONTENTED WITH, AND WHERE DO YOU NEED MORE?»

CONCLUSION

God is your creator. This is why his concept of life for you is so vitally important. Search for God with all of your heart!

Would you like to get connected with God? Then say the following prayer: „Dear God, if you really exist, please reveal yourself to me. Show me who you are.“

NOTES:

REFERENCES TO THE BIBLE “BIBLE STARTER-KIT” IN GERMAN

“Wer ist Gott?” (Who is God): Page 18 / Story 02 – Andi Pantli: “Ein Leben, das sich lohnt“ (A life worth living“ Page 22

LITERATURE RECOMMENDATIONS

“Purpose Driven Life” by Rick Warren, Zondervan Publishers

Chapter

2

LIFE

WHAT IS THE
DEEPER MEANING?

Albert Einstein: "A person who believes that his life is meaningless is not only unhappy but hardly fit for life."

The search for the meaning of life has kept people busy for thousands of years.

Bertrand Russell (Philosopher): "Unless you assume a God, the question of life's purpose is meaningless."

QUESTIONS

"WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE ABOVE QUOTE BY BERTRAND RUSSELL? WHAT IS THE MEANING OF LIFE TO YOU?"

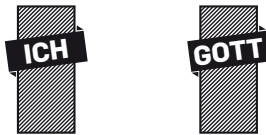
GOD HAS A PURPOSE FOR YOUR LIFE

God lovingly created people with a free will to have companionship with them.

Genesis 1:26-27: "Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground. So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.'

Jeremiah 31:3: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness."

THE PROBLEM: OUR GUILT SEPARATES US FROM GOD



Alexander Solschenizyn: "The line dividing good and evil runs neither between states, nor classes, nor parties but cuts through the heart of every human being."

THE SOLUTION: JESUS CHRIST

2 Corinthians 5:19

"God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them."



FORGIVENESS OF MY SINS

Give your mistakes, guilt, burdens, worries, bitterness and disappointment to Jesus.

PEACE WITH GOD

Through Jesus Christ you can make peace with God today.

MEANING AND PURPOSE OF LIFE

Colossians 1:16

"For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth... all things have been created through him and for him."

YOUR DECISION

John 14:6

"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"

QUESTIONS



WHAT IS THE DEEPER MEANING THAT GOD HAS THOUGHT OUT FOR YOUR LIFE? HAVE YOU MADE PEACE WITH YOUR FELLOW MEN AND WITH GOD?

CONCLUSION

SUGGESTED PRAYER:

"Jesus, I understand now that I have sinned in my life and I realize that this separates me from the love of the heavenly Father. Therefore, Jesus, forgive my mistakes and free me from my guilt. Come into my life, whatever that may mean. I want to give it a try with you. Change my life, change my relationships so that I may enter into the good plan that you, God, have thought out for me. Amen."

NOTES:

REFERENCES TO THE BIBLE "BIBLE STARTER-KIT"

Das Problem (The Problem) page 26 / Ich war ganz unten (I was absolutely down) Story 03 – Roger Fenner page 30 / Die Lösung (The solution) page 34 / Auf der Suche (On the search) Story 04 – Alessandra Güntert page 40 / Der Start (The beginning) page 44 / Zerrüttete Ehe (Broken marriage) Story 05 – Irena Wilhelm page 48

LITERATURE RECOMMENDATIONS

"Purpose Driven Life" by Rick Warren, Zondervan Publishers

CHAPTER

3

SUFFERING

WHY DOES GOD
ALLOW IT
TO HAPPEN?

LIFE BETWEEN TWO TREES

Genesis 2:9

"In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil."

The tree of life symbolises life in all its magnificence and beauty. This tree is a symbol for there being no sufferings at the beginning of creation!

Revelation 22:2-4

"On each side of the river stood the tree of life..."

At the end of time, we will find the same harmony like in a garden in paradise. Healing and harmony between God and people, and everything is restored.

We live in the time between the two trees. A life in tension and patience. One day everything will end. God limits the complex suffering:

NATURAL CATASTROPHIES ARE LIMITED

Before the tree, there were no natural catastrophies. After the tree there will be no more natural catastrophies.

Romans 8:21-22

"That the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time."

DEATH IS LIMITED

Before the tree there was no death. After the tree there will be no more death.

Revelation 21:4

'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'

And God cries with us the entire time. He suffers because we suffer. Divine love is a compassionate love.

ILLNESS IS LIMITED

Before the tree there was no illness. After the tree there will no longer be any illness.

Between the trees we believe and pray to God for healing:

- ★ Sometimes God heals right away
- ★ God heals in a process
- ★ We cannot understand why God does not always heal

Revelation 21:4

“There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

Your illness, suffering, pain and depression will one day seize.

INJUSTICE IS LIMITED

Before the tree, there was no injustice. After the tree there will no longer be any injustice.

Reread Revelation 22:2.

Revelation 21:4

“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

Life is not always fair. But God will provide justice at the end. Turn to Luke 16 as a reference. God will heal your heart and fill it with justice.

QUESTIONS

“HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH SUFFERING SUCH AS FROM NATURAL CATASTROPHES, DEATH, ILLNESS, PAIN AND INJUSTICE?”

“WHERE DO YOU FIND HOPE AND COMFORT?”

“FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND” BY MARGARET FISHBACK

“One night I dreamed a dream. I was walking along the beach with my Lord. Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life. For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand, one belonging to me and one to my Lord. When the last scene of my life shot before me I looked back at the footprints in the sand. There was only one set of footprints. I realized that this was at the lowest and saddest times of my life.

This always bothered me and I questioned the Lord about my dilemma. «Lord, You told me when I decided to follow You, You would walk and talk with me all the way. But I'm aware that during the most troublesome times of my life there is only one set of footprints. I just don't understand why, when I need You most, You leave me.» He whispered, «My precious child, I love you and will never leave you, never, ever, during your trials and testings. When you saw only one set of footprints, It was then that I carried you.»

CONCLUSION

HOW DO YOU GET FROM THE FIRST TO THE SECOND TREE?

This path is the central message of the Bible. It is the path that Jesus took when he went to the cross. You no longer have to take it. Jesus came into this world filled with tension to be our mediator. We owe him our gratitude for being able to look forward to the time after the second tree. He restored peace between God and humankind.

In every suffering we can remember: One day God will wipe away every tear and have fellowship with us.

Invite Jesus into your life. Give him the things that make your heart heavy in a simple prayer (see the prayer in the last chapter).

REFERENCES TO THE BIBLE "BIBLE STARTER-KIT" IN GERMAN

Story 01 – Franziska Heitz: "Unendlich traurig" (Immensely sad), page 12 / Story 07 – Nancy Moser: "Leben mit einer Behinderung" (Life with a handicap), page 70 / Story 09 – Thomas Zindel: "Burn-out", page 84 / Story 13 – Jan-Micha Schmitter: "Krebs und noch mehr" (Cancer and more), page 112 / Story 14 – Markus and Brida Graf: "Unfalltod ihres Kindes" (Accidental death of their child), page 116

LITERATURE RECOMMENDATIONS

"Lieber Gott, warum?" (Dear God, why?) by Leo Bigger, Chapters 9-10, Brunnen Verlag

CHAPTER

4

EVIL

WHERE IS
ITS ORIGIN?

Ephesians 6:11-12

“Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

WHAT COMES TO MIND WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT THE DEVIL?

According to a survey of the Magazine «PM»

- 68 %: He is an invention to explain evil.
- 50 %: the devil dwells in us.
- 49 %: He is an instrument of power that the church uses to apply pressure.
- 23 %: He is a reality.
- 14 %: I think it is possible to conclude a pact with the devil
- 9 %: I am scared of him

WHO IS THE DEVIL?

In the Bible the devil has the following names: roaring lion, dragon, angel of light, prince of this world, the highest of the demons, Satan, Lucifer, accuser, opponent.

The devil is a fallen angel.

Isaiah 14:13-15

“You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon.

I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' But you are brought down to the realm of the dead, to the depths of the pit.”

WHAT DOES THE DEVIL WANT?

The devil wants the exact opposite of what God wants.

John 10:10

“Jesus says: The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

QUESTIONS

HOW DO YOU EXPERIENCE THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL IN YOUR LIFE? IN WHICH SPECIFIC AREAS OF YOUR LIFE?

WHAT DOES THE DEVIL DO TO US HUMANS?

- ★ He kills life (John 8:44a)
- ★ He blinds people (2 Cor. 4:4)
- ★ He steals belief (Luke 8:12)
- ★ He enslaves in addictions (1 John 3:8)
- ★ He lies about God (John 8:44b)

JESUS HAS DEFEATED SATAN

Genesis 3:14-15

So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, 'Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! - He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

LIVE VICTORIOUSLY IN YOUR DAILY FIGHT AGAINST THE EVIL

DON'T GIVE SATAN ANY ROOM OR SPACE IN YOUR LIFE

The struggle in our lives take place in our thoughts. What do you think about the church, yourself, other people, God, children, finances, sex, etc.

WRAP YOURSELF IN A CLOUD OF GRATITUDE

1 John 3:8

"The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work."

The Devil's actions are destroyed when you wrap yourself in a cloud of gratitude

QUESTIONS

HOW DO YOU RECOGNIZE THAT YOU HAVE TWO DIFFERENT STORIES IN YOUR LIFE BY LOOKING BACK ON YOUR LIFE OR LOOKING AT THE PRESENT TIME?

HOW COULD BE JESUS' VICTORY OVER EVIL BE EFFECTIVE IN YOUR LIFE?

CONCLUSION

- ★ Pay attention to your thoughts and feelings (Proverbs 4:23)
- ★ Give the evil one no room.
- ★ Practice daily gratitude of who you are, what you have, etc.

1 John 4:4

"You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."

NOTES:

REFERENCES TO THE BIBLE "BIBLE STARTER-KIT" IN GERMAN

Story 03 – Roger Fenner: *"Ich war ganz unten"* (I was totally down), page 30 / Story 06 – Ruckey Peniel: *"Als Muslima Gott gefunden"* (Found God as a Muslim), page 56

LITERATURE RECOMMENDATIONS

"Lieber Gott, warum?" (Dear God, why?) by Leo Bigger, Chapters 4+8, Brunnen Verlag

CHAPTER

5

JESUS

WHO IS HE AND
WHY DID HE DIE?

Jesus is of exceptional importance for humankind:

- ★ Every year at Christmas we remember his birth.
- ★ Every year at Easter we remember his death and resurrection.
- ★ The calendar system of the entire western world is oriented around Jesus Christ.

JESUS WAS HUMAN

NON-BIBLICAL EVIDENCE

The Roman historian Tacitus speaks directly of Jesus.

The Roman-Jewish historian Flavius Josephus writes about Jesus in his work "Testimonium Flavianum".

The Roman historian Suetonius indirectly speaks of Jesus.

THE NEW TESTAMENT (BIBLE) AS EVIDENCE

The New Testament manuscripts in the Bible are extremely old and numerous.

The New Testament (as well as the Old Testament) is considered as an extremely reliable historical source.

As a good handed-down history book, the New Testament records the life of Jesus on earth.

So Jesus did really live. Jesus walked on this earth like you and I. This is historically documented. He was fully human, like you and me.

He worked as a carpenter. He ate, drank, slept, talked, cried, felt pain, became tired ...

JESUS IS GOD

Jesus said about himself (John 14:6)

- ★ "I am the way."
- ★ "I am the truth."
- ★ "I am the life."
- ★ "No one comes to the Father except through me."

Jesus forgave sins, healed the sick and brought the dead back to life. The Bible speaks of God as the Father, the son Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

If Jesus sees himself as God, there are really only three alternatives:

- ★ It was not true and he knew it. Then he was an impostor.
- ★ It was not true but he wasn't aware of it. Then he was a maniac, lunatic ...
- ★ It is the truth.

Sherlock Holmes:

"When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth."

JESUS DIED

Jesus, God's son, personally came to carry the guilt of the world. Each of yours and my mistakes, each offence is the reason why Jesus died.

Isaiah 53:6

"We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

QUESTION

"WHO IS JESUS FOR YOU?"

JESUS IS RISEN

Because Jesus himself was without guilt and mistakes death could not keep him down. After three days, he rose again.

EVIDENCE FOR HIS RESURRECTION:

The grave was empty.

He was seen by many people within a short period of time.

The impact of Christianity is incredible: the peaceful revolution.

Personal testimony of Christians till this day.

JESUS IS THE SAVIOUR OF HUMANKIND

No person or no religion can do for you what Jesus did for you. It's the biggest proof of love of all times!

1 Peter 1:3

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

THE EXCHANGE AT THE CROSS

Jesus turned fear into courage and love

John 16:33

Jesus turned mockery into honour and dignity

Ephesians 2:6

Jesus turned poverty into riches

2 Corinthians 8:9

Romans 8:32

Jesus turned illnesses and pain into healing and health

Isaiah 53:4+5

Jesus turned loneliness into fellowship

Revelations 3:20

Jesus turned guilt into forgiveness

Colossians 2:14

Jesus turned captivity and bondages of lies that define your life into freedom

John 8:36

Jesus turned pressure and affliction into ease

Matthew 11:30

Jesus turned desperation and grief into comfort

Isaiah 61:1+2

Jesus turned death into life

John 10:10

John 17:3

QUESTIONS

“DO YOU BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD?”

“JESUS IS OFFERING YOU AN EXCHANGE (SEE THE LIST ABOVE) TODAY. WHAT CAN HE DO FOR YOU TODAY?”

CONCLUSION

Tell God what he can do for you in your own words. Either do this alone or in a group.

Invite Jesus into your life with the following prayer:

“Jesus, I now understand that I have guilt in my life and I notice that this is separating me from the love of the heavenly father. So, Jesus, forgive me of my mistakes and free me from my guilt. Come into my life, whatever that may mean. I want to try out living with you. Change my life; change my relationships so that I can start living the good plan that God has thought out for me. Amen.”

John 17:3

Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

NOTES:

REFERENCES TO THE BIBLE “BIBLE STARTER-KIT” IN GERMAN

“Die Lösung” (The Solution), page 34

LITERATURE RECOMMENDATIONS

“The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel, Zondervan

“Questions of Life” by Nicky Gumbel, Alpha Books

CHAPTER

6

PRAYER

HOW CAN I
APPROACH GOD?

Most people still pray today! According to a representative survey of the “Link” Institute two thirds of the Swiss population pray, however, many only pray occasionally.

PRAYER IS COMMUNICATION WITH GOD

Ephesians 2:18

“For through him [Christ] we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.”

Prayer is a purpose for which we have been created for, namely a calling to have a personal relationship with God, our creator.

WHY DO WE PRAY?

JESUS TOUGHT US HOW TO PRAY

Jesus himself prays a lot. He taught us to do the same as he did.

PRAYER CHANGES US AND OUR PERSPECTIVE

Philippians 4:6-7

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

When praying, my perspective of things changes. By speaking to God about my worries, the focus changes..

PRAYER CHANGES SITUATIONS

Prayer does not only change us, but it also changes situations.

DOES GOD ANSWER EVERY PRAYER?

THE PRAYER LIGHTS: GREEN – ORANGE – RED

Green: God hears your prayer according to your request. These are the cases where God reacts and answers our prayers right away or in an expected time period

Orange: God makes you wait. Sometimes it is the case that God has a different timing than we do.

Red: God says no. Sometimes we only understand why God said no until later. There are cases where we will never know why God did not answer our prayers. However we can still decide to continue praying.

QUESTION

“WHAT EXPERIENCES HAVE YOU HAD WITH PRAYER?”

PRAYER BLOCKS

SINS THAT WE DON'T CONFESS

By confessing your sins the connection to God becomes free again.

Psalm 139:23-24

“Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

FALSE MOTIVES

The right motives for praying are important. God answers all the prayers that we pray out of the desire of getting to know him better and serve him.

HOW DO WE PRAY?

10 DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO GOD:

THE NATURE TYPE:	love God in his creation
THE SENSUAL TYPE:	love God with all senses
THE ASCETIC TYPE:	love God in solitude and simplicity
THE ACTIVE TYPE:	love God through commitment
THE CARING TYPE:	love God through loving one's neighbour
THE ENTHUSIASTIC TYPE:	love God through celebrations and mysteries
THE CONTEMPLATIVE TYPE:	love God through unlimited devotion
THE INTELLECTUAL TYPE:	love God with the mind
THE RELATIONSHIP-ORIENTED TYPE:	love God through fellowship
THE TRADITIONAL TYPE:	love God through rituals and situations

WHEN DO WE PRAY?

1 THESSALONIANS 5:17

"Pray continually."

We can pray everywhere and anytime. On the way to work, on the train, in the car, on the tram.

FIXED PRAYER TIMES

Matthew 6:6

"But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

QUESTIONS

"WHAT APPROACHES TO GOD SUIT YOU BEST? HOW AND WHEN COULD YOU INTEGRATE COMMUNICATION WITH GOD IN YOUR DAILY LIFE?"

CONCLUSION

You are always only a prayer away from God.

NOTES:

REFERENCES TO THE BIBLE "BIBLE STARTER-KIT" IN GERMAN

Reden mit Gott (Talking with God), page 93 / Story 12 – Isolde Petermann: "Durch tiefe Täler" (Through deep valleys), page 102

LITERATURE RECOMMENDATIONS

"Lieber Gott, warum?" (Dear God, why?) by Leo Bigger, Chapter 7, Brunnen Verlag

CHAPTER

7

THE BIBLE

IS IT TRUST-
WORTHY?

THE BIBLE IS THE MOST HONEST BOOK!

FACTS AND INFORMATION ON THE BIBLE:

- ★ The term "Bible" originates from the Greek word "biblos", which is translated as "book".
- ★ The bible is a book consisting of 66 books. Included are historical accounts, biographies, collections of poetry, prophecies, letters and essays.
- ★ The Bible consists of two parts, the Old and New Testaments.
- ★ The Old Testament: 39 books, written in Hebrew, tells of the creation of the world, the beginning of history, the covenant with God and his chosen people of Israel.
- ★ The New Testament: 27 books, written in Greek, tells the story of Jesus Christ and the first church.

THE BIBLE TEXTS:

- ★ oldest texts are about 3400 years old
- ★ written in the time between 1400 B.C and 100 A.D.
- ★ Compiled as the Bible around 300 A.D.

THE AUTHORS:

Over 40 from every continent

The writers were kings, scholars, philosophers, fishermen, poets, statesmen, historians, doctors ...

THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE TRADITION OF THE BIBLICAL TESTS

TEXT	WHEN WRITTEN?	OLDEST TRANSCRIPT	TIME SPAN	AMOUNT OF TRANSCRIPTS
HERODOTUS	488-428 BC	900 AD	1300 YEARS	8
THUCYDIDES	460-400 BC	900 AD	1300 YEARS	8
TACITUS	100 AD	1100 AD	1000 YEARS	20
CAESAR'S GALLIC WARS	58-50 BC	900 AD	950 YEARS	9-10
LIVY'S ROMAN HISTORY	59 BC-17 AD	900 AD	900 YEARS	20
NEW TESTAMENT	59 BC-17 AD	130 AD (COMPLETE MANUSCRIPTS 350 AD)	30-310 YEARS	5,000+ GREEK, 10,000 LATIN, 9,300 OTHERS

F.J.A. Haught:

"In the variety and fullness of the evidence on which it rests, the text of the New Testament stands absolutely and unapproachably alone amongst ancient prose writings."

QUESTIONS

"IS THE BIBLE TRUSTWORTHY FOR YOU? DO YOU READ THE BIBLE?"

THE BIBLE BREAKS ALL RECORDS!

- ★ The first book ever to be printed by Gutenberg.
- ★ It is the bestselling book worldwide year after year.
- ★ It is translated into 2400 languages (of the 6900 languages in the world).

Mahatma Gandhi:

"You Christians have a document in your care which can bring peace to this war-torn world. But you deal with this as if it is merely a piece of good literature."

THE BIBLE CONTAINS A MESSAGE!

The Bible is a love letter from God to the people and reveals what God's plan for his creation is:

Ephesians 3:9-11:

"And to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord."

THE BIBLE NEEDS AN INTERPRETATION!

In his book «Jesus unplugged», the American pastor Rob Bell writes: "God has spoken - and everything else is commentary of people."

THE BIBLE IS A FAMILY BOOK

Die Autoren der Bibel haben sich fast immer an eine Gemeinschaft gerichtet. Die Juden lesen die Bibel in der Synagoge gemeinsam und diskutieren darüber. In der Kirchengeschichte haben sich Menschen gemeinsam um das Verständnis der Texte bemüht.

Das Lesen der Bibel in der Gemeinschaft ist bis heute spannend, interessant und vielseitig.

THE BIBLE IS ALIVE!

God has written stories with people in real environments and he is also writing his story with you.

THE BIBLE GIVES DIRECTION!

The Bible has answers to all the important questions of life. It tells you who you are, where you came from and where you are going. It lights up your life's path, in a figurative sense.

Psalm 119:105

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."

READ THE BIBLE

Reading the Bible is not a pious duty which you are obliged to perform. God speaks to you through His Word - which means it is about a relationship.

Psalm 1:2-3

"But whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers."

THIS IS HOW YOU CAN READ THE BIBLE IN A BENEFICIAL WAY:

BIBLE AND NOTEBOOK

Write down thoughts and prayers.

John 16:13

Pray so that the Holy Spirit speaks to you!

READ A PASSAGE AND LET IT SINK IN

ASK YOURSELF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- ★ Who is speaking here?
- ★ What does the Bible passage say about God and people?
- ★ How does he encounter people?
- ★ How did the people react?
- ★ What can we learn from them?

★ How should we answer God?

PUT WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED INTO ACTION!

D.L. Moody:

"The Bible was not given to increase our knowledge, but to change our lives."

Matthew 7:26-27

"But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

There are several tools that can help you to read and understand the Bible: Bible reading aid, annual Bible, Bible dictionary, audio Bible, Bible for on the way in the form of apps for cell phones or tablets.

READING EXPERIMENT: LUKE 15:11-32

Examine the main statements from the story and their possible meaning for our lives today.

CONCLUSION

Start reading the Bible regularly to get to know it better. You will notice that the statement from the Bible will touch your life and also change it. Inform yourself about the different translations and types of Bibles.

NOTES:

REFERENCES TO THE BIBLE "BIBLE STARTER-KIT" IN GERMAN

The Bible: page 81 / Story 11 – Gabi Wey: "Überzeugt durch Gottes Wort" (Convinced by God's word), page 98

LITERATURE RECOMMENDATIONS

"In 99 Tagen durch die Bibel" (Through the Bible in 99 days) by Klaus Jürgen Diehl, Brunnen Verlag

"How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth" by Gordon D. Fee & Douglas Stuart, Zondervan Publishing

CHAPTER

8

THE CHURCH

WHAT IS ITS
SIGNIFICANCE?

CHURCH CONSISTS OF PEOPLE!

Church consists of people who want to know God better. Church is made up of people, who come together to worship God.

Church is God's family on earth; men, women and children who have or are searching for a relationship with God!

Church is your place if you believe in God!

CHURCH SHOULD REMAIN AT THE HEARTBEAT OF OUR TIME

Read Acts 2:42-47

This text tells about the first church, which began after Jesus' resurrection. Today there are countless different churches. Each church is unique, because it is people who make up a church!

QUESTION



“WHICH PERSONAL EXPERIENCES (POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE) HAVE YOU HAD WITH CHURCHES?”

THE CHURCH HELPS PEOPLE BUILD A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST.

Matthew 28:19-20

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Church is made up of people and church is always about God's message that he loves every person. This is the message and the reason of the existence of each church.

CHURCH IS HERE FOR THE PEOPLE, AND NOT THE PEOPLE FOR THE CHURCH.

Church is a fellowship that is concerned about the well-being of the people. For the people who are part of the church, as well as for those who are not a part of it. It embodies God's heart beat for each individual whom he has created.

IN THE CHURCH PEOPLE CAN DEVELOP THEIR POTENTIAL

1 Corinthians 12:28

“And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues.”

The church is the ideal platform for each person to bring in and develop their personality, gifts and talents with passion.

THE CHURCH DOES ITS BEST TO HONOUR GOD

God has put the best message of the world into our hands. The message of his love; the message that he has given up his best, most costly, only son for us. For this reason the church gives God the best it has to offer so that this message can be received by the people.

THE CHURCH LIVES ON TRUE LOVE AND FELLOWSHIP

1 Corinthians 12:24-27

“But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”

No matter whether a church is big or small: Its goal is that the people are so close to each other that they can share a life together in the good and bad times and go on the path together.

THE CHURCH CONTINUALLY GROWS AND INFLUENCES SOCIETY POSITIVELY

A church that is interested in people, in reaching people with the Gospel, in people being able to develop and experience positive change, is attractive and grows continually.

From the moment that fellowship among Christians has existed, it has always influenced society positively because the message of God's love blesses people.

QUESTIONS

“WHAT WOULD A CHURCH HAVE TO BE LIKE, SO YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN IT AND HELP OUT?”

“WHICH WOULD YOUR NEXT STEPS BE TO BE ABLE TO JOIN A CHURCH NEAR YOU? WHICH CHURCH WOULD YOU CONSIDER?”

CONCLUSION

SEARCH FOR BINDING FELLOWSHIP WITH CHRISTIANS.

Ecclesiastes 4:9

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor"

Look for a church near you, that suits you.

Join a Smallgroup to be able to experience binding fellowship.

HELP BUILDING GOD'S CHURCH WITH ALL THAT YOU ARE AND HAVE.

Luke 8:16

"No one lights a lamp and hides it in a clay jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, they put it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light."

Your light counts to lighten up the world. Bring your gifts and talents, your time and also your finances into your church!

Pray for your friends who do not know God yet and let your light shine!

NOTES

REFERENCES TO THE BIBLE "BIBLE STARTER-KIT" IN GERMAN

Feiern (Holidays): Page 109

LITERATURE RECOMMENDATIONS

"Purpose Driven Life" by Rick Warren, Zondervan Publishers

**DISCOVER
GOD**

LIFELONG
JOURNEY

Wow! During eight weeks, you have been working on the relevant questions of life. Hopefully you can say with certainty: "I have discovered God!" And who knows, maybe you have already had a personal encounter with him?

It was and still is my desire to set you off on a good start into the adventure of getting to know the living God personally through "Discover God in eight weeks". Even though I have known him for many years, there are still new discoveries to be made almost every day. He leads me through challenges, he rejoices with me, he inspires and consoles me, he forgives me over and over again – he is simply my best friend! To discover God is a lifelong adventure – it even outlasts the life here on earth!

Here I would like to suggest a few possible next steps on your journey of discovery:

COME TO THE "DISCOVER GOD" DAY

This day gives you the possibility to have an encounter with God and the Holy Spirit and to think about baptism.

SAY YES TO JESUS AND GET BAPTISED

Jesus wants to be your personal saviour. He offers you reconciliation with God and a life in fullness. Have you already decided to commit your life to him? In the first part of the booklet you found several suggested prayers that you can say. Tell someone who believes in Jesus about your decision and get baptised!

BECOME PART OF A CHURCH

Church is made of people. In your "Discover God" group you have actually already tasted a little bit of church: Fellowship and experiencing God together. Who knows, maybe this group will continue to meet? Look for a Smallgroup that is part of a living church. You will make friends there who will join you in reading the bible, praying, grieving, celebrating and experiencing God.

MAKE USE OF THE OFFERS OF THE CHURCH

Every church offers different options for people who are on their journey with God. Get informed, get a coach, let yourself be guided in shaping your life with God.

LIVE A LIFE FOR GOD

Find out how you can serve God with your life. Use your gifts and talents in a ministry in your church, at your job, in your social environment. You will be amazed at how God will work with you and through you!

With all my heart I wish for God's blessing on your life!

Leo Bigger

ADDITIONAL
CHAPTER

9

GOD
THE FATHER
CAN THAT BE?

ADDITIONAL TOPIC OF CONVERSATION FOR THE “DISCOVER GOD” DAY

God is a Triune God. The Bible speaks of God the Father, the Son Jesus Christ and God the Holy Spirit.

GOD IS A LOVING FATHER

Hebrews 1:3

“The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being.”

Jesus lived, died and rose from the dead to give us a closer understanding of God, his father, as the loving father in heaven. He wants to unite us with him.

WHICH IMAGE OF GOD DO YOU HAVE?

God who is always loving

God the protector

God the miracle doctor

God the comforter

God the friend

God the angry one

God the father

God the helper

God who doesn’t interfere

God the weakling

God the judge

QUESTION

“HOW DO YOU NOTICE THAT YOUR EXPERIENCES WITH YOUR PARENTS HAVE INFLUENCED YOUR IMAGE OF GOD?”

THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON (LUKE 15:11-32)

Jesus tells his friends this touching story to explain what God the father is like. At the same time, the two sons in the story are characters who illustrate our human approach to God.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PEOPLE AND THE FATHER IS DESTROYED...

... BY OUR EGOISM (LUKE 15:12)

The younger son's lifestyle shows: God is irrelevant to him. He lives the way he wants to. We, humans want to be god over our own lives. Our egoism destroys the relationship with the loving Father in heaven.

... BY OUR SINS (LUKE 15:12B-14)

Isaiah 59:2

"But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear."

... BY THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN (LUKE 15:14B-16)

ONE DAY EVERY SIN WILL BE REVEALED:

- ★ Either, like with this son, during our lifetime,
- ★ or in heaven when God reveals it.

... BY OUR RELIGIOUS EFFORTS (LUKE 15:28-30)

The lifestyle of the older son shows: God is relevant to him. He meets his obligations and lives a good life.

The hard truth is: That is not enough! God wants a relationship with you! You are a son, a daughter who is loved!

EXPERIENCE GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL FATHER LOVE

TURN AWAY FROM YOUR SIN (LUKE 15:20)

- ★ Get up, like this son, turn around and come closer to God.
- ★ Which environment, what people have a bad influence on you?
- ★ Which habits would you like to break?

CONFESS YOUR SINS (LUKE 15:21)

James 5:16

"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed."

- ★ Confess to God
- ★ Confess to friends

ACCEPT FORGIVENESS (LUKE 15:22-24)

- ★ The robe as a symbol of being part of the father's family (*Zachariah 3:4*)
- ★ The ring as a symbol of authority (*Mark 16:17*)
- ★ The shoes as a symbol of not being a slave but a son / a daughter (*2 Corinthians 6:18*)
- ★ The feast as a sign of happiness because of the return home (*Matthew 8:11*)

FORGIVE YOUR BIOLOGICAL PARENTS

God can give you a new image of a father. On this day, let go of your experiences that are standing in your way of accepting God as your loving father.

Mother Teresa:

"A person is never further away from God than a prayer."

QUESTION



"WHY IS IT SO DIFFICULT FOR US TO CONFESS OUR MISTAKES TO GOD AND PEOPLE?"

CONCLUSION

Confess your mistakes to God today. Write down everything and reflect where you need to confess your guilt to people.

Forgive your biological parents. Thank God for the good things they have put in you.

REFERENCES TO THE BIBLE "BIBLE STARTER-KIT" IN GERMAN

"Wer ist Gott?" (Who is God?) page 18 / Story 02 – Andi Pantli: "Ein Leben, das sich lohnt - A life worth living", page 22

LITERATURE RECOMMENDATIONS

"Father: A Look into the Heart of God" by Geri Keller, Morningstar Publishers, Chapter 10

ADDITIONAL
CHAPTER

10

BAPTISM
WHAT LIES
BEHIND IT?

BAPTISM IS AN OUTWARD SIGN THAT I FOLLOW JESUS.

Acts 2:38

"Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"

PROCESS OF BAPTISM IN PISA:

Immersion up to the feet: God, please let me walk on your path. Baptism means my egoism dies.

Immersion up to the hands: God, please let me work for you. I want to use my talents, my passion, my time for you, God.

Immersion up to the heart: God, please let me love you with my whole heart! God continually tests our hearts.

Immersion of the whole body: God, please help me understand your thoughts and to live according to them. I want to completely belong to you.

WITH THE BAPTISM I LEAVE MY OLD LIFE BEHIND AND START A NEW LIFE.

Colossians 2:12

«Having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.»

THROUGH BAPTISM, I BECOME A PART OF GOD'S FAMILY

1 Corinthians 12:13

"For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body – whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink."

All Christians who have ever lived, are living now or will live are my family. Through baptism I belong to his divine family.

QUESTIONS

“WHAT HINDERS YOU FROM BEING BAPTIZED IN THE NAME OF JESUS? DO YOU HAVE DIFFICULTIES IN COMPLETELY SERVING JESUS WITH YOUR FEET, HANDS, HEART AND HEAD?”

CONCLUSION

Speak about baptism with somebody from your church.

If you were already baptized as an infant: remember that baptism is a conscious decision for a life with Jesus as the foundation. Let yourself be baptized once again to testify to your decision for Jesus.

Prepare yourself by confessing your sins and putting your past in order (at the “Discover God” Day or with somebody you trust). Make a baptism celebration to which you invite your friends and family. Tell your story and confess your faith in words and through the baptism!

NOTES:

LITERATURE RECOMMENDATIONS

“Purpose Driven Life” by Rick Warren, Purpose #2, Day 15, Zondervan Publishers

ADDITIONAL
CHAPTER

11

**THE HOLY
SPIRIT**

WHO IS HE
AND WHAT DOES
HE DO?

ADDITIONAL TOPIC OF CONVERSATION FOR THE “DISCOVER GOD” DAY

Genesis 1:2

“Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.”

From the beginning, God speaks about the Holy Spirit and his works. Who is the Holy Spirit?

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD

The Holy Spirit is the third person of God together with God, the father and God, the Son.

- ★ He is spirit (Hebrew: ruach – Greek: Pneuma – breath, wind, spirit).
- ★ He is the “wind” or “breath” of God.
- ★ He is not only a person, but he is God, the third member of the Trinity.
- ★ He is holy because he belongs to God and emanates from him.

God is one in being, existing in three equal persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OMNISCIENT!

1 Corinthians 2:9-11

“However, as it is written: ‘What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived’ - these things God has prepared for those who love him - for God has revealed them to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except that person's own spirit within? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.”

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS ALMIGHTY!

Luke 1:35

“The angel answered, ‘The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.’”

God's strength is the Holy Spirit. Therefore, he can achieve something which is impossible for humans. His being is beautiful, powerful and almighty!

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OMNIPRESENT!

Psalm 139:7-10

"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast."

The Holy Spirit can be at all places at the same time.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A PERSON

HE THINKS INDEPENDENTLY

1 Corinthians 2:12-13

"We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words."

The Holy Spirit is the only one who knows God's thoughts and knows what goes on inside him. Therefore, he has a divine mind. His intellect makes him a person.

HE HAS INDEPENDENT FEELINGS!

You can offend him (*Ephesians 4:30*).

You can gossip about him (*Mark 3:29*).

You can resist him (*Acts 7:51*).

You can deceive him (*Acts 5:3+9*).

You can only offend, hurt and deceive a person with feelings. These Bible verses show that the Holy Spirit is a person.

HE HAS AN INDEPENDENT WILL!

1 Corinthians 12:11

"All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines."

The Holy Spirit gives each Christian personal gifts according to he will. He is a person with own thoughts, feelings and actions, who wants to give us a lot.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS YOUR SUPPORTIVE FRIEND

John 14:16

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever the Spirit of truth."

Jesus calls the Holy Spirit the "comforter" and "support" (Greek: Parakletos). The Holy Spirit is our counsellor, helper, advocate, supporter, encourager, provider of knowledge and our power source (Greek: dynamis).

The Holy Spirit brings forth fruit in my life:

Galatians 5:22:

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."

QUESTIONS

"THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A DIVINE PERSON. HE WANTS TO BE YOUR FRIEND. WHAT IMPRESSION DO YOU HAVE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT? HAVE YOU PERHAPS ALREADY EXPERIENCED HIM YOURSELF?"

EXPERIENCE THE HOLY SPIRIT IN A PRACTICAL WAY

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS AROUND ME!

John 16:8-9

"When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because people do not believe in me."

The moment we welcome Jesus into our lives we receive a new identity and become God's children. At this moment the Holy Spirit comes into our lives.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS IN ME!

1 Corinthians 6:19

"Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own."

2 Corinthians 13:14

"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

- ★ The meaning of fellowship with the Holy Spirit "Koinonia" is:
- ★ God the father wants the Holy Spirit to always be with us.
- ★ The Holy Spirit offers us friendship, love and intimacy and is an advocate for us to the Father.
- ★ I pour out my heart to him and he shares the concerns of the father's heart with us.
- ★ The Holy Spirit becomes my partner. Together we build a "dream team".

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OVER ME!

Isaiah 61:1-2

"The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn."

The Holy Spirit lives in us and with his gifts we can serve the people around us.

Luke 11:13

"If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!»

QUESTIONS



"WHAT RESERVATIONS HINDER YOU FROM CONSCIOUSLY INVITING THE HOLY SPIRIT INTO YOUR HEART TODAY?"

CONCLUSION

PRAY WITH FRIENDS WHO KNOW JESUS TO RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT.
Consciously start inviting him into everyday situations.

NOTES:

REFERENCES TO THE BIBLE “BIBLE STARTER-KIT” IN GERMAN

“Gott wohnt in dir” (God lives in you): pages 53 - 55

LITERATURE RECOMMENDATIONS

“Geheimnis Heiliger Geist” by Leo Bigger, ICF Medien

«Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important.».
– C.S. Lewis