



Introduction:

- The Church provides us with the means of entering the kingdom
- The Church is not an object to be studied but an invitation to take a journey

Faith is a way of life - Contemplation & Prayer is the Way and means of taking the journey

- Silence teaches us the art of listening and hearing God
- Prayer opens the dialogue and invites the Spirit of God to guide and direct the journey
 - Often taking a course that is not familiar, comfortable or ordinary

THE WAY OF WORSHIP - CHRISTIANS journey to God's Kingdom

- We Assemble – no one makes the journey alone
- The Liturgy gives us a taste of the Kingdom in order to inspire the inner desire to want it and make it one's life's journey
- We travel as the BODY of Christ united in Him and the Holy Spirit
- The Word interprets the mystery of the Symbol to each personally in terms of what is needed.
 - The study of Scripture provides explanation to the surprises on our journey
- WORSHIP BRINGS US INTO THE EXPERIENCE OF "LIVING TRADITION" – AN EVER NEW, PERSONAL AND DIRECT EXPERIENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE PRESENT, HERE AND NOW!
- PERPETUAL RESURRECTION –

WHAT ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS LIVE BY – DESCRIBE YOUR WAY OF LIFE AS AN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ~ learning from the experiences of others.

ASSUMPTION
FAITH &
FELLOWSHIP



Material: Chapter 1: "God as Mystery"

Questions:

1. How does the author define God? Discuss. And what does this tell us about Him? About our ability to know Him?
2. How do we know God? Explain the two contrasting ways He is to us.
3. Discuss the ways God has revealed Himself to us mysteriously. Is this similar to how He has revealed Himself in your life?
4. God is Person, and not a thing. Explain the importance of this reality.
5. Discuss the the "Three Pointers" that point us to this mysterious Lover of man.
6. Explain the distinction between Essence and Energy. Why is this significant?

7. What was your favorite Church Father quote (found at the beginning and end of this chapter) from this chapter? Why?

ASSUMPTION
FAITH &
FELLOWSHIP



Material: Chapter 2: "God as Trinity"

Questions:

1. How is the word person defined (on page 11) and how is that different from being an individual (defined on pg 12)
2. What does it mean that Jesus is “true God of true God”, one in essence or consubstantial (homoousios) with God the Father.”
3. God defined as mutual love relate, makes Him as social being – how does this relate to my salvation – how is it the one thing needful (the rich young ruler)?
4. What does “sacrificial love” look like in real life and how is it a reflection of Trinitarian love (pg 15-16)?

5. How does prayer cultivate living a life of mutual and shared love?

ASSUMPTION
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Material: Chapter 3: "God as Creator"

Questions:

1. Why do we call God, Creator? Why and How does He create? According to John Chrysostom, what are the implications for us?

2. Discuss "man's place in God's creation."

3. What does it explain of man as Microcosm and Mediator of God's creation.

4. Man is made in God's image and likeness. What is the role of our free will? And what does it mean that our vocational destiny is to be Priest and King?

5. Discuss the author's explanation of evil, suffering, and the fall of man. What are its profound and sordid consequences?

6. What is the Creator God's reaction to this Fall? Discuss.

7. What was your favorite Church Father quote (found at the beginning and end of this chapter) from this chapter? Why?

ASSUMPTION
FAITH &
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Material: Chapter 4: "God as Man"

Questions:

1. God comes to each of us in a personal way. Discuss times you have felt that you were not alone as well as time when you have felt abandoned by God.

2. We are called to be "like Christ", he shows us what it looks like when a person has achieved perfection. Describe and give examples of people you know who have shown you what it means to be Christ-like.

3. Knowing that by Christ having fully suffered every aspect of living in a sinful world and that being victorious by not sinning He saves us; why is it so difficult for us to turn to God for forgiveness and repent when we make mistakes and sin.

4. Share how participating in Holy Week and experiencing the “suffering-love” of Christ has impacted your life or how it should but has not yet.

ASSUMPTION
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Material: Chapter 5: "God as Spirit"

Questions:

1. The Holy Spirit cannot be defined verbally; how is it lived and experienced directly in our lives?

2. We call upon the Holy Spirit to come upon us and the gifts (bread and wine) present showing them to be the body of Christ. Describe the ways in which Christ is incarnated (made present) in the life of the Church.

3. To be a Spirit-bearer means to realize all the distinctive characteristics in my personality; it is to become truly free, truly myself in my uniqueness. Discuss what does it mean to discovering new forms of holiness in ourselves and what do these look like?

4. In what ways do Christians seek spiritual direction? What forms of spiritual direction exist in the Church? How do we experience spiritual direction from each other.

5. What was your favorite Church Father quote (found at the beginning and end of this chapter) from this chapter? Why?

ASSUMPTION
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Material: Chapter 6: "God as Prayer"

Questions:

1. How does being a member of the Church family and participating in a life of inner prayer & the sacramental life aid in our journey towards salvation?

2. How does prayer deepen a person's experience of one's baptismal grace and also aid in realizing union with Christ given to us in the Eucharist (Holy Communion)?

3. What are some things we can do or what aids us while reading scripture that make it something personally directed toward us so that grace is transmitted and God is encountered?

4. What are the obstacles that keep us from renewing daily our relationship with God through living prayer?

5. Discuss how repentance, watchfulness, discrimination and guarding the heart are all part of the “active” life along the Way.

ASSUMPTION
FAITH &
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Material: Epilogue: "God as Eternity"

Questions:

1. Reflecting on the previous chapters, discuss the idea of God as Eternity, as *Person* as Eternity. What are your impressions of/thoughts on this reality? What does it mean to you?

2. Discuss the the author's treatment of the Second Coming and the General Resurrection. How are we to approach this topic?

3. How are we to understand God's judgement? What are we made to understand about Heaven and Hell in this chapter?

4. About the "Journey to the Infinite," what stuck out to you? What do you think of the author's thoughts on the Age to Come.

5. What was your favorite Church Father quote (found at the beginning of this chapter) from this chapter? Why?