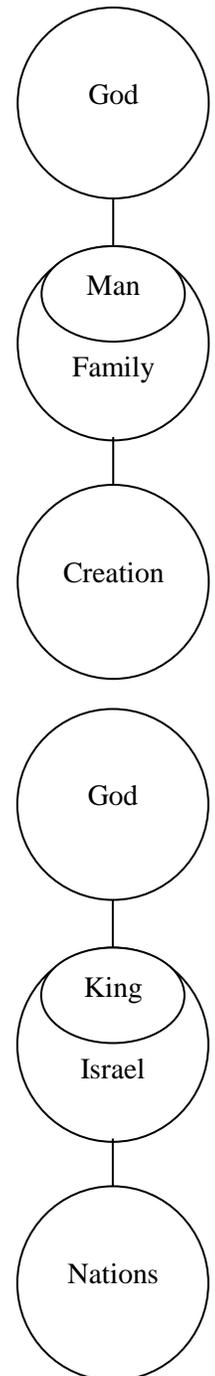

Day 1

- † Read Genesis 1.26-28. From this passage, what do you see as God’s initial purpose for men and women? What do you think it means to be made in God’s image? In other words, how does God intend for us to be like him?
- † Read Leviticus 11.44-45 and 1 Peter 1.16. Can you see how the three circles model reflects God’s plan in the creation, for Adam to reflect God’s character and represent God within his family, for Adam and his family to reflect God’s character and represent God to the rest of creation?
- † Read Genesis 3.1-19. Can you see that when Eve obeyed the snake and Adam obeyed Eve, this totally subverted God’s plan as represented in the three circles model?
- † Pray that you can learn to reflect God’s character better in your daily life. In what ways could you improve in this?



Day 2

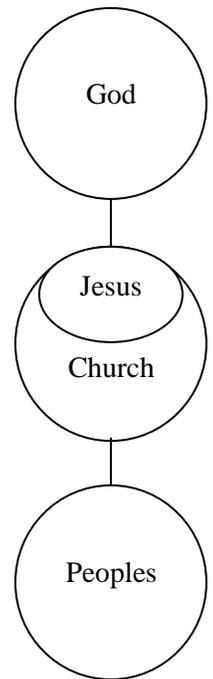
- † Read Genesis 12.1-3. This is the moment when God chose Abraham’s family to be his representative people to all the rest of the people. Abraham’s family would become the nation of Israel. Throughout the Old Testament, God revealed that his purpose remained the same: to create a people who would reflect his character and represent him on Earth. Now the plan was that the leader of Abraham’s family [initially patriarchs like Abraham, later official judges, and eventually kings] would do God’s will as God’s chief representative on Earth and rule over Israel, and he along with the rest of Israel would reflect God’s character and represent God to the other nations. Can you see the continuity between this model and the previous one? What has changed? Why do you think God altered the plan?
- † Read 2 Kings 17.19 and Malachi 3.7. Do you think Israel was able to fulfill God’s purpose for them? In fact, much of the time, they abandoned the model altogether: they listened to the influence of the nations around them, instead of to God, thereby subverting the chain of command just as Adam and Eve had done.
- † Pray that you can learn to be influenced by God more, and less by people or the culture. In what ways could you improve in this?

Day 3

- † Read 2 Samuel 7.12-16. These verses talk mostly about David’s son Solomon, who would ascend to the throne of Israel after David. God says David’s kingdom, Solomon’s kingdom, will last forever. Since this kingdom ceased to function effectively about 2600 years ago, how do you think God intends to fulfill this promise? Notice how Matthew begins his gospel, Matthew 1.1. Read Luke 1.32-33.
- † Later, God would reveal to the prophets that there would come an anointed one, a “Messiah,” who would fulfill this role as eternal king from David’s lineage. We get the term “Messiah” from Psalm 2, but Isaiah 9.6-7 and Daniel 7.13-14 elaborate on his role. The word “Christ” is from the Greek translation of the Hebrew term “Messiah” [both of which mean “anointed one”], so Christ is this anointed one, who is not only our savior from sin but also the promised eternal king of Israel. When he returns, he will rule on David’s throne from Israel; read Matthew 25.31.
- † Pray that you can better follow Christ, to become like him in character, to adopt his priorities and values, and to do the types of things he led his original followers to do. In what ways could you improve in this?

Day 4

- † Read Colossians 1.15 and 2 Corinthians 4.4. Why would Christ be the ultimate image of God the Father? Since Christ is fully human and the true image of God, he is the man who can be the ultimate representative of God in the *original* three circle model. Since Christ is the promised eternal king of Israel, he is the man who can be the ultimate representative of God in the *second* three circle model.
- † Read 1 Peter 2.9 and Romans 8.29. God saves us as a gift of grace, but what is his purpose for us? Is it similar to the purpose God originally had for people and to the purpose God had for Israel? Read 2 Corinthians 3.18 and Colossians 3.9-10. What do you think God wants from those of us who believe in Christ and are saved?
- † Read Ephesians 1.22-23. Christ is God's chosen head of the church, God the Father's ultimate representative in this *third* model God is using to fulfill his purpose. So Jesus is the ultimate representative of God the Father in *all three* models. What does that say about the continuity of both the purpose of God for mankind and the plans God has put into effect for achieving it?
- † Pray that you can represent God better in your daily life. In what ways could you improve in this?



Day 5

- † Read John 3.16 and John 6.40. What is required of us for salvation?
- † Read Ephesians 2.8-9. We believe that salvation has always been a gift from God, thus we say salvation has always been by grace alone. We also believe that salvation has always involved God inspiring faith in his chosen people in response to them learning what God has revealed about his promise of salvation. Thus we say salvation has always been by grace alone through faith alone. In other words, we believe that the requirement for salvation, and the response of being saved, has always been to believe in the known details of God's offer of a gift of salvation. Today, we know that offer centers on the person and work of Jesus Christ, so today we call God's offer "the gospel" [meaning "the good news"] of Jesus Christ.
- † Read John 20.30-31. John wrote his entire book about Jesus so that we would believe in who Jesus is, that Jesus is the Son of God and the promised Christ [or Messiah] from the Old Testament. Thus we know that what is most important is understanding who Jesus really is. And in this case, if we understand who Jesus really is, then we also will understand what Jesus has done for us in his death on the cross and his resurrection. Read Isaiah 53 and 1 Corinthians 15.1-4.
- † Jesus is the one who fulfills God's purpose of having a human representative on Earth who reflects God the Father's image [or character]. Jesus also is the one who will deliver Israel from exile and reestablish forever the kingdom of his human ancestor, David, in Jerusalem, from where he will rule over all people. Jesus is the one who delivers us from the bondage to sin and the punishment for sin; he is the only one who can reconcile us with God the Father and declare us righteous in faith. Read Romans 3.23-24 and Romans 5.10.
- † Pray that you truly believe in the promise of God for salvation through Christ, and pray that you would appreciate that gift enough that you would feel compelled to reflect God's image and represent God to others at all times, including by sharing the good news about Christ with others in your life.