



A STUDY ON TRUTH  
THAT OFFENDS

TABOO

# COMMUNITY LEADER STUDY GUIDE

## Introduction

The purpose of TABOO is to effectively communicate the brilliance, freedom, and satisfaction of the biblical lifestyle. Often in today's culture, Christian morality is portrayed as a two-dimensional caricature of old-fashioned, irrelevant, and joyless restraint. This is because of our fallen way of thinking. We often worship creation rather than the Creator, and we are easily satisfied with cheap substitutes for True Joy. Likewise, because we live in a fallen world, the real truth that God reveals in the Bible often strikes us as backwards or counter-cultural. Upon closer examination, however, the exact opposite is true. Jesus Christ has invited us into greater pleasure than we could ever imagine. Thus, during the course of the TABOO series, we will see that Christ has not only given us the opportunity to become better people; he has shown us the way to become new people.

## Description

This is a 7-week study guide for Community Group Leaders. Each lesson contains a scripture, discussion topics, and teaching tips. The purpose of all scriptural teaching and discussion should be to proclaim and apply the Gospel of Jesus. As a Community Group Leader you are responsible to study the topic and text for the week. You are now the pastor of your community group. Teach them. Call them. Lead them. Disciple them.

# LESSON 1: TRUTH

**Cultural Definition:** All truth is relative. Truth is based on individuality, culture, and tradition. The “truth” contained in the Bible is at best out-dated and irrelevant. At worst it is intolerant, chauvinistic, and promotes racial and religious superiority.

**Biblical Definition:** All truth proceeds from God, and therefore the ultimate end of the quest for Truth leads to God.

Study Text: Romans 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

<sup>19</sup> For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.

<sup>20</sup> For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

<sup>21</sup> For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

<sup>22</sup> Claiming to be wise, they became fools,

<sup>23</sup> and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

<sup>24</sup> Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,

<sup>25</sup> because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

## DISCUSSION TOPICS:

WHAT IS YOUR PERSONAL VIEW ON TRUTH?

WHY IS BIBLICAL TRUTH IN SUCH CONFLICT WITH OUR CULTURE?

WHAT IS THE MEANING AND APPLICATION OF VERSES 18-21?

WHAT IS THE MEANING AND APPLICATION OF VERSES 22-25?

WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS VERSE AND BIBLICAL TRUTH IN MY PERSONAL DEVOTION TO JESUS?

WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS VERSE ON MY EVERYDAY LIFE?

## TEACHING HELP:

This is a deep text. Be sure to spend a good amount of time meditating on the text. Focus on how God is revealed throughout creation and also on how we “darken” our hearts towards the revelation of God.

## LESSON 2: SEXUALITY

Cultural Definition: Sexuality is something that we are born with. It is different for everyone and should be explored with freedom.

Biblical Definition: Sexuality is a gift from God that is meant to be enjoyed with freedom between a man and a woman inside of marriage.

Study Text: Ephesians 5:3-10

<sup>3</sup> But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.

<sup>4</sup> Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.

<sup>5</sup> For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

<sup>6</sup> Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

<sup>7</sup> Therefore do not become partners with them;

<sup>8</sup> for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

<sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true),

<sup>10</sup> and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

### DISCUSSION TOPICS:

WHAT IS THE SEXUAL IMMORALITY AND IMPURITY THAT VERSE 3 TALKS ABOUT?

WHY IS SEXUALITY SUCH A HOT TOPIC BOTH IN THE BIBLE AND IN OUR CULTURE?

WHAT IS THE MEANING AND APPLICATION OF VERSES 5 AND 6?

WHY DOES IT SAY THAT WE "WERE DARKNESS" INSTEAD OF THAT WE WERE IN DARKNESS?

AND THEREFORE, WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE THE "LIGHT IN THE LORD" CONCERNING SEXUALITY?

WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS PASSAGE ON YOUR DAILY LIFE?

### TEACHING HELP:

Sexual immorality is a sin that has been present in every culture in history. It is one of the most talked-about issues in culture today. The Bible does not restrict freedom in sexuality, but actually gives us direction on how sexuality can be experienced in its fullness. Make sure to focus on the fact that freedom in Christ does not allow us to sin (Galatians 5:13), but rather gives us freedom not to sin.

# LESSON 3: GENDER

**Cultural Definition:** As man has evolved, so has our view on the differences between each gender. Although men and women are different physiologically, no distinction should be drawn between the role of men and women in society.

**Biblical Definition:** God created man and woman to be different. Both men and women have distinctive needs that one can fulfill in the other.

Study Text: 1 Corinthians 11:2-16

<sup>2</sup> Now I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I delivered them to you.

<sup>3</sup> But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God.

<sup>4</sup> Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head,

<sup>5</sup> but every wife who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, since it is the same as if her head were shaven.

<sup>6</sup> For if a wife will not cover her head, then she should cut her hair short. But since it is disgraceful for a wife to cut off her hair or shave her head, let her cover her head.

<sup>7</sup> For a man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man.

<sup>8</sup> For man was not made from woman, but woman from man.

<sup>9</sup> Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.

<sup>10</sup> That is why a wife ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.

<sup>11</sup> Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man nor man of woman;

<sup>12</sup> for as woman was made from man, so man is now born of woman. And all things are from God.

<sup>13</sup> Judge for yourselves: is it proper for a wife to pray to God with her head uncovered?

<sup>14</sup> Does not nature itself teach you that if a man wears long hair it is a disgrace for him,

<sup>15</sup> but if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For her hair is given to her for a covering.

<sup>16</sup> If anyone is inclined to be contentious, we have no such practice, nor do the churches of God.

## DISCUSSION TOPICS:

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR CHRIST TO BE THE HEAD OF MAN AND MAN THE HEAD OF HIS WIFE?

DOES THIS PASSAGE PROMOTE CHAUVINISM OR HUMILITY UNDER CHRIST?

WHAT IS MEANT BY "HEAD COVERINGS?"

WHY DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ON GENDER ROLES?

## TEACHING HELP:

This is truly one of the most difficult passages to navigate, understand, and teach. Remember that in all scripture the emphasis should be Christ. The purpose of this passage is not to subdue women, but rather, it is to elevate Christ. A great scripture to use along with this verse is Galatians 3:26-29.

# LESSON 4: AUTHORITY

Cultural Definition: The purpose of Authority is to maintain order for the welfare of society. According to our forefathers we are all given certain "un-alienable rights."

Biblical Definition: All authority has been given by God and each Christian should submit to it as if the Christian was submitting to God Himself.

Study Text: Romans 13:1-10

<sup>1</sup> Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

<sup>2</sup> Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.

<sup>3</sup> For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval,

<sup>4</sup> for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.

<sup>5</sup> Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience.

<sup>6</sup> For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing.

<sup>7</sup> Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

<sup>8</sup> Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

<sup>9</sup> For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

<sup>10</sup> Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

## DISCUSSION TOPICS:

WHY IS SUBMISSION SO IMPORTANT TO GOD?

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SUBMISSION AND OBEDIENCE?

WHAT IS THE CHRISTIAN'S RESPONSE TO UNGODLY AUTHORITY?

WHY WOULD GOD ALLOW UNGODLY AUTHORITY?

WHY DOES THIS PASSAGE MOVE SO QUICKLY FROM AUTHORITY TO LOVE?

## TEACHING HELP:

Our generation has a strong sense of independence, and therefore we have an aversion to authority. Emphasize that to live in Love (verse 7) means to submit and honor authority, even if it is ungodly.

# LESSON 5: HELL

Cultural Definition: Hell is a myth created by religion to cause fear and repression to those who do not believe in religion.

Biblical Definition: Hell is the eternal separation from God that those who do not believe in Jesus Christ will eternally experience.

Study Text: Revelation 14:6-12

<sup>6</sup> Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people.

<sup>7</sup> And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

<sup>8</sup> Another angel, a second, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality."

<sup>9</sup> And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand,

<sup>10</sup> he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

<sup>11</sup> And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name."

<sup>12</sup> Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.

## DISCUSSION TOPICS:

WHY DOES HELL EXIST?

ACCORDING TO THIS PASSAGE, WHAT CAUSES PEOPLE TO GO TO HELL?

ACCORDING TO VERSE 12, WHAT SHOULD OUR RESPONSE BE TO HELL?

WHAT SHOULD OUR APPROACH BE TO UNBELIEVERS REGARDING HELL?

## TEACHING HELP:

Hell is a difficult truth, but nevertheless it is a truth. Remember to emphasize that God does not exist to send people to Hell, but instead to redeem them through Jesus Christ.

This is an incredible opportunity to focus on the Gospel. Emphasize that through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ we have the opportunity for eternal life. (Also, there may be a tendency to talk about the End Times during this passage of scripture. But keep your group on track talking about Hell and ultimately the Gospel. If people have questions about End Times allow them to ask at the end of the discussion and teaching.)

# LESSON 6: MONEY

Cultural Definition: Money determines social status, popularity, and quality of life. The purpose of work is to acquire wealth in order to acquire the material needs that bring quality of life.

Biblical Definition: God gives us money so that we can give and be a blessing to others. God is our security and provision- not money.

Study Text: 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

- <sup>1</sup> We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia,
- <sup>2</sup> for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.
- <sup>3</sup> For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord,
- <sup>4</sup> begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—
- <sup>5</sup> and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.
- <sup>6</sup> Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace.
- <sup>7</sup> But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you- see that you excel in this act of grace also.
- <sup>8</sup> I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine.
- <sup>9</sup> For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.
- <sup>10</sup> And in this matter I give my judgment: this benefits you, who a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it.
- <sup>11</sup> So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have.
- <sup>12</sup> For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have.
- <sup>13</sup> For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness
- <sup>14</sup> your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness.
- <sup>15</sup> As it is written, "Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack."

## DISCUSSION TOPICS:

WHY DOES GOD WISH US TO GIVE?

IS THIS TEXT MERELY TALKING ABOUT TITHING OR IS IT TALKING ABOUT MORE THAN JUST TITHE?

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE BELIEVER'S VIEW OF MONEY AND THE WORLD'S VIEW?

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF VERSE 9?

## TEACHING HELP:

Be bold in teaching on money. Although it is controversial, it is an essential area in which God has called us to spread His love toward others.

# LESSON 7: SOVEREIGNTY

Cultural Definition: If God is sovereign then humans have no true choice and are in all actuality just robots.

Biblical Definition: If we believe that God is a loving Father who is truly good, then His sovereignty should comfort us more than our own sense of free will.

Study Text: Romans 9:14-26

<sup>14</sup> What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means!

<sup>15</sup> For he says to Moses "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."

<sup>16</sup> So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.

<sup>17</sup> For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth."

<sup>18</sup> So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he will.

<sup>19</sup> You will say to me then, "Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?"

<sup>20</sup> But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, "Why have you made me like this?"

<sup>21</sup> Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use?

<sup>22</sup> What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction,

<sup>23</sup> in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory—

<sup>24</sup> even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?

<sup>25</sup> As indeed he says in Hosea, "Those who were not my people I will call 'my people,' and her who was not beloved I will call 'beloved.'"

<sup>26</sup> "And in the very place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' there they will be called 'sons of the living God.'"

## DISCUSSION TOPICS:

WHY IS SOVEREIGNTY VS. FREE WILL SUCH A HOT TOPIC IN OUR GENERATION?

WHY IS BELIEVING OR NOT BELIEVING IN SOVEREIGNTY SO IMPORTANT?

WHY DOES THE IDEA OF SOVEREIGNTY OFFEND US?

IS GOD TRULY GOOD?

WHY DOES HIS GOODNESS MATTER IN RELATION TO SOVEREIGNTY?

## TEACHING HELP:

Sovereignty is difficult to understand and equally difficult to teach. Be encouraged to use the whole Bible as an example of God making the first move towards man. Adam, Abraham, Moses, the 12 Disciples, and Paul are all examples of God's sovereignty.

# LESSON 8: SATAN AND DEMONS

Cultural Definition: Satan and Demons are a myth created by Religion to scare and control, for the purpose of manipulation through fear.

Religious Definition: Satan is the rival of Jesus; and we, as people, are in a constant tug of war between these two equally powerful forces.

Biblical Definition: Christ has defeated the power of darkness, including Satan and Demons, through the power of the Cross and Resurrection.

Study Text: 1 Peter 5:8 & 9

<sup>8</sup> Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

<sup>9</sup> Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

## DISCUSSION TOPICS:

WHY IS DEVIL MENTIONED AS OUR ADVERSARY AND NOT CHRIST'S?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE SOBER-MINDED AND WATCHFUL?

WHY DOES CULTURE SO QUICKLY DISCARD THE IDEA OF A REAL SATAN?

DO YOU THINK RELIGION GIVES SATAN TOO MUCH POWER?

WHAT IS THE SUFFERING IN VERSE 9?

# LESSON 9: END TIMES

Cultural Definition: Christianity's view of the End Times is fear-mongering and manipulative, if not simply non-sensical.

Religious Definition: We are living in the End Times now and any moment Jesus will rapture the church and the tribulation will begin.

Biblical Definition: Jesus is returning for His bride (the church) and He will abolish evil and usher in an age of redemption and peace.

Study Text: 2 Peter 3:10-13

<sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

<sup>11</sup> Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness,

<sup>12</sup> waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!

<sup>13</sup> But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

## DISCUSSION TOPICS:

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE RAPTURE?

IS THE END TIMES IN REVELATION FIGURATIVE OR ACTUAL?

ARE WE IN THE END TIMES?

WHAT SHOULD OUR POSTURE BE AS WE AWAIT THE RETURN OF CHRIST?

WHY IS THE END TIMES SO CONTROVERSIAL?

# LESSON 10: THE CROSS

Cultural Definition: Most people know what it is, yet they do not know what it is. It is a religious symbol.

Religious Definition: Jesus died on the Cross, and now we can go to heaven.

Biblical Definition: The Cross is everything. It is on the Cross that Jesus died and purchased the redemption for all of mankind.

Study Text: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup> For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

<sup>19</sup> For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

<sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

<sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.

<sup>22</sup> For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom,

<sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,

<sup>24</sup> but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

<sup>25</sup> For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

## DISCUSSION TOPICS:

HOW COULD SOME HISTORICAL GUY'S DEATH MATTER TO US TODAY?

WHAT DOES THE CROSS DO FOR US?

WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE?

WHAT SHOULD OUR DAILY VIEW ON THE CROSS BE?