

# INTRODUCTORY SESSION | 1

## LEADING IDEA

**GOD'S WORD SPEAKS TO EVERY SPHERE OF ACTIVITY IN OUR LIVES.**

## LEADER PREPARATION

- » Preview DVD – “Introductory Session”
- » Read/Review the lesson and the DVD Notes with attention to the Leading Idea, Scripture references, and definitions where applicable.
- » Have a *Study Guide* available for each participant.
- » Pray for open hearts and minds.

## GROUP MEETING

### I. **Introducing the Lesson** (approximately 15 minutes) (*Study Guide* page 1)

1. As this is your first session, take some time for the participants to introduce themselves and become familiar with one another.
2. Read the following Scriptures to introduce the idea that the Bible speaks to every sphere of life and living:

#### Psalm 19:7-11

*“<sup>7</sup>The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. <sup>8</sup>The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. <sup>9</sup>The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. <sup>10</sup>More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. <sup>11</sup>Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.”*

3. Ask the participants to begin thinking about the following ideas. Do not generate discussion, simply generate thought:
  - A. | In your view, where does our nation stand in relation to Biblical values? Why?
  - B. | Who is most responsible for this – the Christian or the non-Christian?
  - C. | How could you, as an individual, work to effect change in our nation?
4. Comment to the participants: “Forgetting or forsaking the Hand of God in history, forgetting that God does rule in the affairs of men, forgetting or forsaking the Word of God as our American political textbook, our economic textbook, our social, cultural, educational textbook; this alone has produced the results we have in our nation today.”<sup>2</sup>

*Verna M. Hall*

- 5. Pray using Psalm 19:14 *“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.”*

## II. Presenting the Lesson

(Study Guide page 2)

- 1. Following are the notes as they appear in the *Study Guide*.
- 2. Encourage participants to jot down notes in the spaces provided. Notes in italics appear in the Leader’s Guide only.
- 3. Play DVD (23 minutes).

### DVD Notes

The study series you are beginning is a power-packed study designed to direct your thinking concerning the influence of the Word of God upon our nation—in the early days of its founding as well in the current day in which we live.

As a Christian, have you given serious consideration to the connection between this inspired Book, God’s Word, and the nation in which we live?

Is there a connection between the Word of God and the nation in which we live?

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What is your view of the power and influence of the Word of God?

*“According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue.”*

II Peter 1:3

Do you genuinely believe that His Word applies to every sphere of activity in your life?

Does government fall outside the jurisdiction of divine authority and control?

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To what extent is God involved in the affairs of nations? Not just the United States of America, but any nation?

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*“...till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will.”*

Daniel 4:25

In the sessions to follow, we will be presenting a wealth of Biblical thinking to build your understanding of a truly Biblical view of government, a Providential, or divinely planned view of the history of men and nations, and very specifically the Biblical principles that shaped the United States of America to be a nation of spiritual, religious, economic, civil, and political liberty.

**“Once the individual becomes informed and aware of the problems of the times, it then becomes critically important to take effective action to correct, to reconstruct, to rebuild constitutional liberty. This cannot be accomplished by merely uncovering a problem. With awareness must come constructive knowledge in order to deal intelligently and effectively with every challenge to individual liberty and to the freedom of these United States of America. Human knowledge and human reason are not able to provide the insight and wisdom needed. Unless one understands the Christian history of this nation and the Christian Principles of our form of government, one is not equipped to deal with today’s challenge to the freedom of mankind.”<sup>3</sup>** *Rosalie J. Slater*

**Why should I be interested in such topics?** We are the recipients of a precious godly heritage. We live in liberty today because the generations before us treasured liberty and paid the price to secure it for us.

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*“For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? Do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same.”*

Romans 13:3

*“Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom He hath chosen for His own inheritance.”*

Psalm 33:12

The Word of God is the truth for our nation. In fact, it is the only source of hope for our nation.

Man’s ideas aren’t good enough. We need to open the Word, find God’s truth, apply it and live by it, speak the truth to others, and instill the truth in the hearts of the rising generation.

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What about where we are today? In many respects, our nation has turned its back on God’s truth. **Is there really any hope that this nation could be turned back to God?** The Word of God assures us that God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we might ask or think. (Ephesians 3:20)

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**If we look at the problems of society, we will be discouraged**

**But**

**If we look to God, trust Him, and follow His truth, nothing is impossible.**

*“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”*

John 8:32

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*“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls...”*

Jeremiah 6:16

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**The theme verse for the ministry at PILGRIM INSTITUTE:**

*“Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.”*

Proverbs 22:28  
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**Presentations:**

- Biblical View of Government
- Providential View of History
- Principles of America’s Christian History and Government
- Hope for Our Nation

**Meeting the speakers:** (Their biographies are included on pages 99-100; *Study Guide* pages 105-106.)

- James B. Rose
- Ruth J. Smith
- Lynn Meier
- Jeanette Whittaker

Our prayer is that you will become Biblically governed yourself. You, individually, and other American Christians just like yourself are the key to the future of liberty in our nation. Our children’s future is in our hands. As Isaiah 58:12 challenges us, let’s be the restorers of the path for them to dwell in.

### III. Concluding the Lesson

1. When the DVD is finished, lead a group discussion using the questions below. These appear on page 6 in the *Study Guide* under section III. **Thinking About It.**
  - A. | For **Reflection and Reasoning** – The answers are in *italics* and appear in the *Leader’s Guide* only.
  - B. | Read to the participants the statement under **Digging Deeper.**
2. Close with prayer.

### For Reflection and Reasoning >>

1. | In your view, where does our nation stand in relation to Biblical values? Why?  
*Answers will vary.*
2. | Who is most responsible for our nation's falling away from Biblical values – the Christian or the non-Christian?  
*The Christian is most responsible because the Christian can know truth for our nation through the Word of God – the only source of hope for our nation. As Christians have forgotten or forsaken the Hand of God in history, forgotten that God does rule in the affairs of men, forgotten or forsaken the Word of God as our American political textbook, our economic textbook, our social, cultural, educational textbook; this alone has produced the results we have in our nation today.*
3. | How could you, as an individual, work to effect change in our nation?  
*As an individual, I can work to effect change by first learning the Christian history of this nation and the Christian principles of government.*

### Digging Deeper >>

1. | In future sessions, this section is devoted to a series of thought-provoking questions that will inspire you to consider the lesson's ideas more deeply and to search the scriptures to confirm those ideas. The questions should be completed after the session in preparation for the next presentation.

### Conclusion >>

What conclusion can be drawn from this lesson?  
*(Answers will vary.)*