

SCHEDULE

1. Introduction	January 18, 2012
2. God and Nature	January 25, 2012
3. History and Jesus Christ	February 1, 2012
4. The Holy Spirit and the Church	February 8, 2012
5. Prayer, Worship, and the Bible	February 15, 2012
6. The Lord's Supper and Dreams	February 22, 2012
7. Work and Service	February 29, 2012
8. Friendship and Suffering	March 7, 2012

HISTORY AND JESUS CHRIST

OPENING PRAYER: Thanks be to thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits which thou hast given us; for all the pains and insults which thou hast born for us. O most merciful Redeemer, friend, and brother, may we know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly, for thine own sake. Amen. (Richard of Chichester, England)

OPENING HYMN

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come!
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

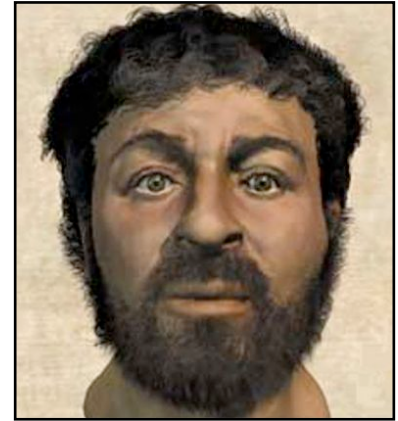
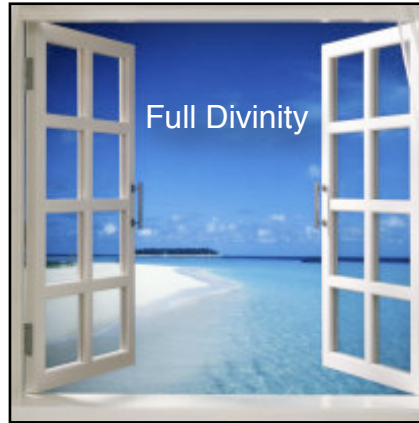
Under the shadow of thy throne, still may we dwell secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come;
be thou our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Chapter 3: HISTORY

1. God works in history by blessing us and judging us. Which of these two acts of God are more easily experienced and why?
2. Which is more important in learning to do God's will on earth: the past, the present, or the future.
3. When God called Moses to liberate the Hebrew slaves, the slaves experienced liberation and the Egyptians and Canaanites experienced judgment. Was God fair?
4. Do we live in a moral universe?
5. Which is more serious: the sins of commission or omission. What do you think of Abraham Heschels' comments about World War II on page 24?
6. As a nation are we moving towards the light or darkness? See John 3:19 and I Peter 2:9.



Chapter 4: JESUS CHRIST

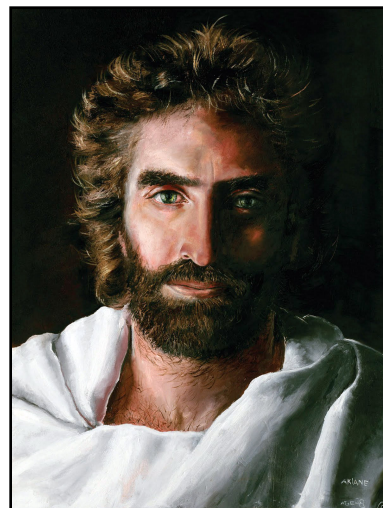
1. Jesus is both a mirror and a window. When we look into his mirror, we see what full humanity is and when we look through his window, we see full divinity. Which one helps you the most? (See John 1:14 and Colossians 1:15.)
2. Jesus' central message focuses on the Kingdom of God. He talked about the Kingdom on earth and the Kingdom to come. Which one is easier for you to visualize?
3. Jesus was neither a political/military king or a moral/ethical judge. He was a religious/suffering servant. What is Jesus to you?
4. Does it matter to you what Jesus looked like? How can we stop making Jesus over in our own image?

CLOSING HYMN: William Featherstone

My Jesus I love thee, I know thou art mine;
for thee all the follies of sin I resign.
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou;
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I love thee because thou hast first loved me,
and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow;
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow;
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.



CLOSING PRAYER: O God, just as we look into a mirror to see any soiled spots on our face, so let us look to you in order to understand the things that we have done amiss. We are like a reed shaken in the wind; we are inexpressibly weak. Leave us not to ourselves, but dwell in our hearts and guide our thoughts and actions. Amen. (Korea)