



## Apologetics

*"... In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience," 1 Peter 3:15-16a*

This month, we will be reading *Essential Christianity* by J.D. Greear. In this book, J.D. prompts us to think about the message of Christianity and how it is still applicable today. J.D. takes the reader through the book of Romans and ties ten different points of Christianity to the words of Paul. A line from the book describes how the book of "Romans proves the fundamental anxieties and questions of the human condition have not changed in 2,000 years." This means that the problem with the human condition, whether it is our sinful nature or our desire for something greater than ourselves, is not a new one.

This book is an excellent tool for continuing to discover and walk through your own journey with Jesus and conversing with others who you are close to, helping them understand questions they may have about the Christian faith.

## April Assignments

- Read *Essential Christianity* and prepare some notes to share with your group. Your notes should include the following:
  - List the big ideas of each chapter.
  - List your key takeaways.
  - Discuss how you will apply it to your life now.
  - Bring your takeaways and application points to your monthly meeting.
- Have a Man-date with one other guy in your group. You could discuss topics like the book, the verses, family life, personal life, etc.
- This month contains two different assignments: Fasting and investing in others. In fasting, we are denying our bodies something that it needs in order to survive (food) and exchanging that with the one who will sustain us (Jesus). The focus of fasting is to hear from God. This fast will last for 48 hours. Read the article in the link and QR code below to help you as you prepare for your fast.  
[https://manhoodjourney.org/christian-fasting/?utm\\_source=google-ads&utm\\_campaign=MJ\\_Blog\\_Podcast&utm\\_agid=148912677788&utm\\_term=what%20does%20the%20bible%20say%20about%20fasting&creative=617911185491&device=c&placement=&gad\\_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjwqpSwBhCIA RIsADlZ\\_TliU8VXU71COtik1-Gdl6d2XoCz8Mm4YZDjA\\_bLF\\_OCTVSU-iAeKQlaAkIzEALw\\_wcB](https://manhoodjourney.org/christian-fasting/?utm_source=google-ads&utm_campaign=MJ_Blog_Podcast&utm_agid=148912677788&utm_term=what%20does%20the%20bible%20say%20about%20fasting&creative=617911185491&device=c&placement=&gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjwqpSwBhCIA RIsADlZ_TliU8VXU71COtik1-Gdl6d2XoCz8Mm4YZDjA_bLF_OCTVSU-iAeKQlaAkIzEALw_wcB)



While fasting is something that we do to hear from God and to draw ourselves closer to him, the end goal of all spiritual disciplines is not for the good of ourselves, but rather for the good of others. Last month, you were assigned to pray for your ONE; this month, we want to encourage you to have at least one interaction that embodies the gospel of Jesus. Examples of this could include,

- Have a meal with your one.
  - Text or Call your one to ask how you can pray for them.
  - Spend time with your one doing something that you know they enjoy.
- Memorize the verses below before your next group meeting. (*download the Verses app for help memorizing.*) *Scripture is taken from ESV, but use whatever translation you prefer.*
    - But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.  
Acts 1:8
    - For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes... Romans 1:16
    - but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect... 1 Peter 3:15
  - REMINDER: Each month, go to [biltmorechurch.com/davidsmen](http://biltmorechurch.com/davidsmen) to download materials.