

Table**TALK**

Bringing the Principle to Life

“

I can see a great change, a great new surge of revolution coming to America, not by fire, not by bullets, but by God's truth kindling a revolution of the human heart. I have come here to ignite this spiritual revolution. I don't need to demonstrate in front of the White House or in Lafayette Square. The answer does not lie there. It is in the hearts of men and women, in the quiet revolution from selfishness to unselfishness.

—*Pyeong Hwa Gyeong*, p. 47

”

“

World peace will not be achieved by means of political ideologies oriented toward power, nor by any initiative that relies on physical force. Peace will only be accomplished when all men and women share in God's love and truth and put these into practice.

—*Pyeong Hwa Gyeong*, p. 97

”

CONTENTS

Welcome4

Creation6

The Fall..... 12

Eschatology..... 18

Messiah 24

Resurrection 30

Predestination 36

Christology..... 42

Restoration I 48

Restoration II 54

Parallels 60

The Last 500 Years..... 66

Second Advent..... 72

Final Review 78

WELCOME

Thank you for picking up a copy of *Table Talk: Bringing the Principle to Life*! This booklet is a resource designed to support anyone seeking to connect with God in heart through reading and reflecting on God's Word.

In what follows, you will find 12 weeks' worth of questions and readings for discussion. Each chapter reflects one of the main themes relayed in the Exposition of the Divine Principle, an expository text conveying the essential message of Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon.

Most of the readings are excerpts pulled from the Pyeong Hwa Gyeong (or PHG, a collection of their public speeches) and both editions of the Cheon Seong Gyeong (or CSG, thematic collections of their lifelong teachings).

Each chapter closes with a few pages for guided reflection on how the readings may be applied in your own life.

Our hope in creating this booklet is to foster meaningful conversations and connections of faith with the people you care about. As such, we trust that you will get the most out of the exercises when completed prayerfully and shared together as a family or a small group in the living room, on the porch, around the kitchen table--wherever you feel most at home. You may even consider inviting other families in your neighborhood to join your conversations and nurture connections of faith in your community.

At the end of the day, it is in sharing and living the Word that new life is created. We hope that your prayer, discussions, reflection,

and your practice of what you read here will empower you to invite God more fully into your life and relationships in the coming weeks.

God bless you, your family, and your neighborhood--truly the roots of a peaceful world.

WEEK 1

CREATION

God, Purpose, and Responsibility

Why did God **CREATE US?**

What is our **VALUE?**

How did God **CREATE US?**

How do we **LOVE GOD?**

How do we **LOVE OTHERS?**

How do we
LOVE OUR ENVIRONMENT?

What is **JOY?**

What is **RESPONSIBILITY?**

How do we **GROW?**

[illegible]

READINGS

"Even if God is absolute, it is impossible for Him to achieve love, ideals, happiness or peace by Himself. Love, ideals, peace and happiness are words that are not realized in isolation. They can only be achieved with an object partner."

—PHG, p. 68

"True love can be achieved only with a reciprocal partner."

—PHG, p. 84

"We are beings of infinite value, because we human beings are the object partners before the God who is the King of true love, true ideals and true peace."

—PHG, p. 68

"From this perspective, we can readily see how high a value each person has, as God's own object partner of true love."

—PHG, p. 84

"Creation means nothing more than the Creator, God, projected into a substantial form. God became incarnate symbolically in the universe, and became incarnate directly in man and woman."

—PHG, p. 40

"We need to achieve the position of a second, visible God as His absolute object partners. Our minds and bodies must be united by means of the invisible God and by means of true love, and we must honor and respect our heart and conscience just as we honor and respect God, Himself."

—PHG, p. 91

"Our first ancestors ... [a]fter reaching maturity ... were to be blessed as true husband and wife ... [and] become substantial True Parents to their children, inheriting and passing on true love, true life and true lineage from God."

—PHG, p. 132

"The place where Adam and Eve are harmonized perfectly, consummating their first love by marrying under the blessing of God, is precisely the place where God meets His substantial bride. This is because God's ideal of absolute love descends vertically and joins where the ideal of conjugal love between Adam and Eve is realized horizontally. In this way, the true love of God and the true love of humankind join in perfect communion at a single point."

—PHG, p. 107

"Human beings were to be the substantial embodiments of love, totally united with God in heart, and obtaining perfect freedom, happiness and the realization of all ideals. They would have become the lords of true love whom all beings in the universe would have loved and welcomed. ... This is the blessing to create a living environment in which we experience joy and happiness, having dominion over the creation. This includes the care and preservation of the world's ecological balance."

—PHG, p. 132

"We are meant to live intoxicated by the love of God. ... There is nothing that can go beyond this feeling of joy. Every cell in your body will explode with joy."

—PHG, pp. 38-39

"God put His entire heart and soul into the creation of His object. ... God set the pattern for the universe. In the ideal we live for others. God's definition of goodness is total giving, total service, and absolute unselfishness."

—PHG, pp. 40-41

"Created as newborn infants, Adam and Eve were to grow and perfect themselves gradually through experiences of the heart of true children, true brother and sister, true husband and wife, and true parents."

—PHG, p. 106

REFLECTION

Which quote was the most meaningful for you?

How would you put it in your own words?

What do you feel called to apply to your life this week?

How will you apply that this week?

WEEK 2

THE FALL

Why God Didn't Intervene

What is **EVIL**?

What is **SIN**?

What is the **ORIGIN OF EVIL**?

What was the **HUMAN FALL**?

What are the
RESULTS OF THE FALL?

Why didn't **GOD INTERVENE**?

REVIEW

How did it go last week?

What did you learn?

READINGS

"Evil is the emergence of selfishness into this world. God's principle of unselfish giving was twisted into an ungodly principle of selfish taking."

—PHG, p. 42

"It is a principle of Heaven that whenever a relationship of love is established, whether false love or true love, ownership is established from that point. Because of this principle, the human ancestors came under the ownership of Satan."

—PHG, p. 90

"The origin of evil is Satan. Satan is a fallen archangel. He left his position as faithful servant to God and human beings, and he challenged and competed with God. His motivation was selfish. His selfishness was the origin of evil and sin."

—PHG, p. 42

"Eve fell from her position as God's first daughter, becoming the first victim of Satan and transforming herself into a creature of selfishness. Together Eve and Satan then successfully brought Adam into their selfish world."

—PHG, p. 42

"Adam and Eve engaged in illicit love before becoming mature. The archangel became Satan; Adam and Eve became evil ancestors, and the world of spiritual death began."

—PHG, p. 86

"Adam and Eve covered their lower parts and hid themselves among the trees, trembling in fear. By disobeying heavenly law, they established an immoral relationship as the basis for false love, false life, and false lineage. As descendants of Adam and Eve, all human beings are born with original sin. The Fall gave rise to conflict between the mind and body within every person, thereby causing our societies to be filled with tainted love, and with people who do things that contradict the desire of their original minds."

—PHG, pp. 108-109

"You may raise the question, 'How could God, who is omniscient and omnipotent, stand by, seemingly impotent, while humanity went down the path of destruction?' Human beings committed sin in a sphere over which they are exclusively responsible. Therefore, they must fulfill the conditions needed to resolve that sin. God cannot liberate us from sin unconditionally. If He could, He would have liberated our first ancestors in the Garden of Eden instead of casting them out. ... The Fall was something that would never have happened under the original standard of the ideal of creation. Therefore, God was not in a position to intervene, even though He was the Creator."

—PHG, p. 1540

REFLECTION

Which quote was the most meaningful for you?

How would you put it in your own words?

What do you feel called to apply to your life this week?

How will you apply that this week?

WEEK 3

ESCHATOLOGY

The Last Days

What was the
IDEAL OF CREATION?

What is the **FALLEN CONDITION?**

What is **GOD'S HOPE FOR US?**

What are the **LAST DAYS?**

What is the **ROLE OF RELIGION?**

Can the **RELIGIONS UNITE?**

What should our **ATTITUDE BE?**

REVIEW

How did it go last week?

What did you learn?

READINGS

"If Adam and Eve had become a couple of true love centered upon God, God could have dwelt in Adam as His substantial body and thus loved Eve. What is more, Adam and Eve together could have become true parents who substantially embodied God, and thereby could have become the origin of the love of goodness, a life of goodness, and a lineage of goodness."

—PHG, p. 110

"We inherited Satan's selfish desires and lived unrighteous, self-centered lives, parading our fallen nature. Unaware that God created us as brothers and sisters who would live in attendance to Him, we live in sin, strife and dispute. We do not even know that to kill another is to kill oneself, and so we live in unhappiness."

—PHG, p. 174

"God is absolute, so His Will for the creation is also absolute. This means that God is working to reverse what went wrong as a result of the human Fall and return us to the original state. Thus, God's ... purpose is to recover the original world that existed prior to the Fall. ... In other words, God's intention is to establish a couple in the position of restored Adam and Eve, or True Parents, practicing true love. God wants to give them the marriage Blessing and have them form a true family, which will be the point of origin of true tribes, peoples, nations and world."

—PHG, p. 175

"The Last Days is a turning point when the evil history of Satan concludes and God's good sovereignty begins."

—PHG, p. 1401

"Would God let humanity perish in the judgment of the Last Days? No. He is the Parent of humankind. The so-called judgment by fire spoken of in Christianity today is not a literal one."

—CSG, 1st ed., p. 706

"Jesus came to save the whole world, not just for the salvation of Christians. Is he going to bring judgment in the Last Days? Then the statement that 'God so loved the world' would be wrong."

—CSG, 1st ed., p. 923

"It has been the task of religion and God's providence of salvation to liberate us from this sphere of the Fall."

—PHG, p. 105

"Therefore, in each era and in each region of the world, God has raised religions and has led humanity along the progressive path of restoration."

—PHG, p. 265

"The nearer the Last Days approach, the closer we come to the age when the purpose of religion is realized."

—CSG, 1st ed., p. 181

"All religious leaders must become leaders in a worldwide movement to realize a higher love that embraces other religions and societies. This is the lofty ideal implicit in the teaching of the founders of all religions. ... The goal of God is not the victory of one religion or one ideology; it is the realization of a world of love."

—PHG, p. 253

"In the Last Days, above all we must become the people who understand God's heart."

—CSG, 1st ed., p. 2207

"Humankind has not known that the core, the essence, is love. ... The stable point upon which we can settle in these Last Days and in the future is nothing other than love."

—CSG, 1st ed., p. 2183

REFLECTION

Which quote was the most meaningful for you?

How would you put it in your own words?

What do you feel called to apply to your life this week?

How will you apply that this week?

WEEK 4

MESSIAH

Mission, Death, and Return

Who were we **MEANT TO BE?**

What **WENT WRONG?**

What is a **MESSIAH?**

Do we **NEED A MESSIAH?**

Who was **JESUS?**

What was **GOD'S HOPE FOR JESUS?**

How was **JESUS RECEIVED?**

What is **JESUS' LEGACY?**

REVIEW

How did it go last week?

What did you learn?

READINGS

"Adam and Eve were God's first children. They were born of God, grew up in God, and would have matured into perfection in God. God intended to make Adam and Eve one in heavenly matrimony. Then they would have borne sinless children and become the True Mother and Father for all human beings. They would have been the first 'king' and 'queen,' establishing the heavenly kingdom on earth."

—PHG, p. 48

"Adam and Eve entered into chaos after they fell through their ignorance. When they were expelled from Eden, they had not yet had children. Humanity has multiplied without any direct relationship whatsoever to the love of God."

—PHG, p. 105

"God has been searching for one person whom He could trust—one man who could purify the fallen lineage of humanity and transform it into true life. That man is the Messiah who inherits God's true love and brings liberation to all humankind."

—PHG, p. 231

"During the course of God's providence of restoration, Jesus was the only one born with true life directly connected to God's true lineage."

—PHG, p. 231

"Jesus came as the sinless Adam, or perfected Adam. His first mission was, therefore, to restore his bride and form the first family of God. All fallen generations would have been grafted onto him as the true olive tree. God-centered families, tribes and nations would thus have been restored."

—PHG, p. 49

"The Son of God ... needed a wall of protection to grow up safely in Satan's world and fulfill the Will of God."

—PHG, p. 114

"God chose Zechariah's family ... so that even after the birth of Jesus they would protect, serve and witness to him as the Messiah. They not only would have served Jesus as the Son of God and Messiah with utter devotion, they would have learned the Will of God through Jesus and followed him absolutely. Also, John the Baptist was born to serve Jesus, and ought to have fulfilled his responsibility to guide everyone whom he led to repentance to believe in Jesus and receive salvation."

—PHG, p. 116

"With John the Baptist at his side, Jesus would have led the people of Israel to win for God all the authority and power of Rome, as it had been prepared to do by God for thousands of years. Had such a foundation been secured, Jesus would have sent out his royal representatives to all corners of the world on the roads leading out of Rome."

—PHG, pp. 1573-1574

"Unfortunately ... Zechariah was simply a spectator. John the Baptist stood separate from Jesus. These circumstances blocked the people from following Jesus and made his path very difficult. Once this family lost faith in Jesus, looking at him through human eyes, there was no room for them to help him receive his bride."

—PHG, p. 116

"Throughout his life, Jesus never said he wanted to receive love. Rather he said he came to serve, and that he would love even his enemies."

—PHG, p. 151

"Although he was persecuted and died on the cross, he truly loved all humankind. Jesus left this world giving the supreme example of love through the cross."

—PHG, p. 151

"Due to the disbelief of his contemporaries, Jesus died on the cross, leaving this process as an ideal to be accomplished at the time of the Second Advent."

—PHG, p. 231

"He was not given the chance to restore his bride. And this is why Jesus promised his second coming."

—PHG, p. 49

REFLECTION

Which quote was the most meaningful for you?

How would you put it in your own words?

What do you feel called to apply to your life this week?

How will you apply that this week?

WEEK 5

RESURRECTION

Life, Death, and Spirit

What are we **MADE OF?**

How do we **FLOURISH?**

Do our **SPIRITS GROW?**

Is there an **AFTERLIFE?**

Why do we **DIE?**

Are our **SPIRITS CONNECTED?**

What is **RESURRECTION?**

REVIEW

How did it go last week?

What did you learn?

READINGS

"Within each of us is a physical self and a spiritual self. In the Unification Church, we refer to these as the spirit and the body. Originally, the spirit and the body are supposed to become one."

—CSG, 2nd ed., pp. 686-687

"What is the one focus, the ideal standard point, desired by your five physical organs, such as your eyes and nose, as well as by your five spiritual organs? It is neither God's power nor His wisdom. It is love, the center and the standard point of everything!"

—CSG, 2nd ed., p. 687

"When the spirit self and the physical self harmonize and resonate with each other in God's love, the spiritual cells and physical cells interact perfectly."

—CSG, 2nd ed., p. 687

"The mind is the vertical 'I' and the body is the horizontal 'I.' There are two. Their structure is the same. Everything in creation shares that. Consider the example of a tree. The leaves receive sunlight and, through chlorophyll, create and supply nutrients. From the earth its roots also absorb nutrients found underground. Those nutrients interact with each other. In Principle terms, they are the vitality element and the life element, ever giving and receiving in a relationship like that of the mind and body."

—CSG, 2nd ed., p. 689

"The spirit world and the earthly world are not two separate worlds cut off from each other. ... The spirit world and the human world can harmonize and resonate based on true love."

—CSG, 2nd ed., p. 772

"We can see the incorporeal body through our spiritual eyes. In the center of that incorporeal body is the spirit, and that part corresponds to the human mind. That place is where you can meet with God happily."

—CSG, 2nd ed., p. 688

"If we want to possess the true authority of God's boundless true love as His object partner, our limited physical body will not suffice. This is why, of necessity, we need to transform into an incorporeal spirit. Furthermore, we need to do so in order to share the ideal of love equally with all of heaven and earth. For this reason ... death signifies a transition from the earthly world, where we can only crawl and walk, to a world where we can live and fly freely. ... Therefore, death is nothing other than being born anew."

—CSG, 2nd ed., p. 691

"If you fail to fulfill your responsibility on earth, you will have to set up your descendants in your place. You will have to help them and cooperate with them, taking their circumstances into consideration. You will have no choice but to cooperate with them, so that through them you can fulfill the responsibility you failed to carry out while you were alive. This is the phenomenon of returning resurrection."

—CSG, 2nd ed., p. 770

"Thanks to the coming of Jesus upon the earth, the good ancestors who preceded him were able to transition from the form-spirit level of the spirit world to the life-spirit level. ... Now is the era in which [the spirit world] helps unconditionally for the sake of resurrection to the divine-spirit level."

—CSG, 2nd ed., p. 780

REFLECTION

Which quote was the most meaningful for you?

How would you put it in your own words?

What do you feel called to apply to your life this week?

How will you apply that this week?

WEEK 6

PREDESTINATION

A Case Study

What is **FAITH?**

What is **PREDESTINATION?**

How does it **WORK?**

How does **GOD BLESS US?**

What is a **COVENANT?**

REVIEW

How did it go last week?

What did you learn?

READINGS

"Put yourself in their position of total reliance on God. What a wonderful faith! I am sure that the faith of the Pilgrim Fathers touched the heart of God. And when God is moved, He offers promises; and when He makes promises, He will fulfill them. God determined to give these faithful people the ultimate thing they wanted—freedom of worship. He then determined to give them even more."

—p. 52

"America's existence was according to God's providence. God needed to build one powerful Christian nation on earth for His future work. ... This continent of America was hidden away for a special purpose and was not discovered until the appropriate hour. The people of God came at the appointed hour. They came to mold the new way of life. Their principal partner was God."

—p. 55

"God had a definite plan for America."

—p. 57

"God's purpose is the salvation of the world and all humankind. Today in America, therefore, you must not think that you have such wealth because you yourselves are great. We must humbly realize that the blessing of God came to America with the purpose of making it possible for God to use this nation as His instrument in saving the world. ... God wants to have America as His base, America as His champion. And America has begun in the sacrificial spirit pursuing God's purpose. America must consummate its history in the same sacrificial spirit for God's purpose."

—pp. 58-59

"Certainly, you did work hard. However, hard work is not explanation enough. If God had not been the principal partner, creating today's America would have been impossible."

—p. 59

"I made a covenant with our young people of America that we will strive in partnership with God."

—p. 67

NOTE

All readings are from "God's Hope for America," in Christianity in Crisis: New Hope, (HSA-UWC: Washington, D.C., 1974).

REFLECTION

Which quote is the most meaningful for you?

How would you put it in your own words?

What do you feel called to apply to your life this week?

How will you apply that this week?

WEEK 7

CHRISTOLOGY

Salvation and the Blessing

Who is a **CHILD OF GOD?**

Who was **JESUS?**

Who is the **HOLY SPIRIT?**

What is **SALVATION?**

What is our **DESTINY?**

What is the **BLESSING?**

Why is **FAMILY IMPORTANT?**

REVIEW

How did it go last week?

What did you learn?

READINGS

"Jesus Christ is the one person who lived God's ideal in its fullest realization. He was the first person of perfection ever to walk the earth, and he came to restore the true relationship between God and humanity. ... Jesus is a man in whom God is incarnate. But he himself is not God. ... Jesus is ... the only begotten Son of God."

—PHG, p. 39

"For the first time in history, there [was] generated on earth, free of satanic accusation and through a prepared womb, the seed of the Son of God, the seed of the True Father. In this way, [Jesus], the only begotten Son of God, the owner of the first love of God, was born."

—PHG, p. 114

"Who is the Holy Spirit? If Eve had achieved perfection, she would have become a substantial mother. But after she fell, her spiritual nature was taken by God. If Jesus had found a bride on earth, this spiritual nature was supposed to return to earth to the bride and wear a substantial form; however, it did not return to earth and Jesus did not become a substantial parent. So instead, Jesus had to become at least a spiritual parent together with the Holy Spirit."

—Father's Words on the Divine Principle I, p. 83

"The returning Lord stands in the position of the True Parents of humankind and recovers the position of embodying God's true love. The position of the parents of heaven and earth, when fulfilled, will bring God's providence of salvation for all humankind to completion."

—PHG, p. 231

"In order to complete God's providence of salvation, it is not enough for one man to appear as the Savior, the Messiah, or Lord of the Second Advent. The True Parents have to appear as husband and wife, who resemble God completely and who have completely realized His true love. ... True Parents established the connection of humankind's true love and true life to the Source. They are the model and ideal of all true husbands and wives and all true parents."

—PHG, p. 246

"Perfect human beings ... possess godlike value by participating in God's divinity and perfection."

—PHG, p. 106

"The mission of the Messiah is a mission of true parents to realize God's love in this world. ... We too are called by God to pursue and accomplish this mission. ... God is calling every human being to walk this same path of the Messiah, loving God and all humankind with true, unconditional love."

—PHG, pp. 85-86

"Through the marriage Blessing that passes on God's original blood lineage, the True Parents will be able to give salvation to all humanity. ... Thus, it is the international holy weddings that establish this new blood lineage when the Lord of the Second Advent comes in the flesh."

—PHG, p. 118

"The path is now wide open for everyone to establish a true family. The family is the model by which people are to live in service to one another. The warm environment of oneness based on love and respect between parents and children, mutual fidelity and love between husband and wife, and trust and mutual reliance among siblings is the manifestation of the model ideal family."

—PHG, p. 1606

"Through the cross-cultural marriage Blessings that transcend religious denomination and nationality, the Universal Peace Federation will be the vanguard that carries out the great revolution of restoring the original lineage of humanity, harking back to Adam before the Fall."

—PHG, p. 1610

REFLECTION

Which quote is the most meaningful for you?

How would you put it in your own words?

What do you feel called to apply to your life this week?

How will you apply that this week?

WEEK 8

RESTORATION I

An Introduction

What is **RESTORATION**?

What is **RE-CREATION**?

What is **INDEMNITY**?

How do we
RESTORE OUR HEARTS and
GROW IN FAITH?

How do we
RESTORE RELATIONSHIPS and
GROW IN LOVE?

How do we
PREPARE FOR THE MESSIAH?

REVIEW

How did it go last week?

What did you learn?

READINGS

"God sowed the seed of goodness, but before He could gather its fruit, Satan invaded with his evil seed and harvested his evil fruit. For this reason, God has to sow the seed of goodness once again."

—PHG, p. 43

"The seed of conflict, hatred and selfish desire embedded deeply within each of us is still alive. ... What can eradicate those inner conflicts and struggles and resolve the fundamental human problems at their root? Where was the seed of hatred, conflict, and struggle sown? ... The seed was planted in the family of the first human ancestors, Adam and Eve. Then, where is the path to resolve those conflicts and realize peace on Earth? ... Economic, political, diplomatic and military ... methods obviously do not provide fundamental solutions. ... There is only one fundamental way. ... It is to restore the ... ideal family with God at its center."

—PHG, p. 131

"The root of the providence of salvation is the re-creation of the seed of the original child. ... The essence of the providence is the task of setting up the birth of the True Parent, the Savior united with the true love, life and lineage of God."

—PHG, p. 110

"It is first necessary to establish certain conditions. We must go through the process of restoration through indemnity. ... Whenever something or someone loses its original position and state of being, it cannot be restored to its original position and status without first paying a certain price."

—PHG, p. 150

"How, then, are we to bring about this family heaven on earth? First, each member of the family needs to complete his or her individual character. ... This is impossible by human effort alone. ... Herein lies the reason religions consider practicing spiritual disciplines such as fasting, sexual abstinence, sacrifice and penance to be of utmost importance."

—PHG, p. 182

"God was working His providence to separate people from satanic life and lineage by establishing the foundation of cooperation between a mother, who needed to fulfill the responsibility of Eve, the originator of the Fall, and the second son of the family. ... Even though Eve had fallen, as a mother she could have made an effort to foster unity between the two brothers."

—PHG, p. 111

"The principle of restoration can be carried out only by going in a direction 180 degrees opposite to that of the human Fall. The human Fall was committed by three beings: Adam, Eve, and the archangel. The archangel seduced Eve, causing the spiritual Fall, and later fallen Eve seduced Adam, causing the physical Fall."

—PHG, p. 111

"God needs to establish anew the original starting point of human history. He does this through a person who can live a life of true love for the sake of God, humanity and all creation. This is the mission of the Messiah."

—PHG, p. 151

REFLECTION

Which quote was the most meaningful for you?

How would you put it in your own words?

What do you feel called to apply to your life this week?

How will you apply that this week?

WEEK 9

RESTORATION II

Biblical Examples

What can we **LEARN FROM BIBLICAL FAMILIES?**

Are **SYMBOLS SIGNIFICANT?**

What are the **SYMBOLS OF RESTORATION?**

What is the **SIGNIFICANCE OF LINEAGE?**

What is the **SUBSTANCE OF RESTORATION?**

What is **SACRIFICE?**

REVIEW

How did it go last week?

What did you learn?

READINGS

"Tamar had the conviction that she was meant to carry on the lineage of the chosen people. In order to do that, she disguised herself as a prostitute and slept with her father-in-law, Judah, and became pregnant with twins. At the time of birth, one of the twin sons, Zerah, stretched out his hand from the womb to be born first. When he was pulled back into the womb, the second son, Perez, was born first, taking the position of the elder brother. Thus, within the womb of Tamar, the first and second sons fought, and their reversal of position was the condition that separated them from Satan. In other words, this became the condition for restoration in the womb. Upon this condition, the Messiah could be conceived within the blood lineage of the chosen people, on the base of the nation of Israel, which could stand up to the Roman Empire two thousand years later. The victorious foundation on the national level could then be formed in the womb of a mother free of satanic accusation, prepared for the seed of the Son of God. On this foundation, the Holy Mother Mary emerged in the mainstream of God's providence."

—PHG, p. 113

"The holy of holies symbolizes perfected Adam and Eve. Moses' two stone tablets, the manna and quail, and Aaron's rod that budded all symbolize Adam and Eve. Of the many cryptic stories in the Bible, a large number are allegories of Adam and Eve. The pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire represent Adam and Eve, and the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil also refer to Adam and Eve. The secret of Adam and Eve's love has been recorded in allusions, but it has never been revealed."

—CSG, 2nd ed., p. 459

"In Genesis it is written that there were two trees in the Garden of Eden; one was the Tree of Life and the other the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. What do those trees symbolize? They symbolize the true man and the true woman whom God must recover. Because those who were to become the True Father and the True Mother were lost, they came to be symbolized by those trees. The Bible teaches many things in such a symbolic way. When God led the Israelites out of Egypt, a pillar of fire and a pillar of cloud appeared before them, with the pillar of cloud leading them by day and the pillar of fire by night. What did those pillars symbolize? They symbolized a man and a woman, symbolically showing that in the Last Days the True Parents would come and that the Israelites would follow them faithfully."

—CSG, 2nd ed., pp. 170-171

"God needed to find a son with the new seed, free from satanic accusation. Just as God created Adam first at the time of the creation, God must prepare a son first who has no relationship to the Fall. ... The Messiah has his roots in God and comes as the Second Adam, who wipes away all that was committed by the first Adam."

—PHG, pp. 111-112

"Satan sowed the seed of false love within the womb of Eve, which gave birth to evil life. Therefore, God needed to purify a mother's womb from which the heavenly son could be born. That purification period of separation from Satan had to begin at the time of conception."

—PHG, pp. 112-113

"God let Mary, Zechariah, and Elizabeth know about the birth of the Messiah before anybody else. ... Zechariah's family let Mary stay in their house. Jesus was conceived in the house of Zechariah. Elizabeth and Mary were cousins on their mothers' side. According to God's providence, they were considered sisters, with Elizabeth as the elder ... and Mary as the younger. ... Mary received Elizabeth's help in the presence of Zechariah. ... This allowed Jesus to be conceived."

—PHG, p. 114

"By examining the teaching of the Old and New Testaments, one can understand that the Messiah comes with the authority of the Father, meets a substantial bride who represents the power of the Holy Spirit, and then restores the position of the True Parents. ... Due to the false parents who were influenced by Satan, God lost the ideal family of Adam. God wanted a true family, a true tribe and a true nation, but all these were lost. ... Jesus came with this same mission. However, when he lost his people and nation due to their faithlessness, he offered his life for the sake of the world and the kingdom God wished to build."

—PHG, p. 1405

REFLECTION

Which quote was the most meaningful for you?

How would you put it in your own words?

What do you feel called to apply to your life this week?

How will you apply that this week?

WEEK 10

PARALLELS

God in History

What is the
SIGNIFICANCE OF TIME?

Is **GOD INVOLVED IN HISTORY?**

What has been the
ROLE OF JUDAISM and
CHRISTIANITY?

How has **GOD'S PROVIDENCE**
UNFOLDED IN THE WEST?

What is the **VALUE OF THE**
PRESENT TIME?

REVIEW

How did it go last week?

What did you learn?

READINGS

"History both before and after Jesus must be viewed symbolically rather than literally. ... If you do not use a calendar, even now you cannot tell how many days have passed from any particular event. Without using a calendar, how could anyone tell whether the time elapsed was 900 years or 90 years? The matter is not important except in its symbology. The prehistoric age in the Bible is revelation given to Moses. Since it is revelation, the numerical figures appearing prior to Abraham should be regarded symbolically. It is not literally 2,000 years."

—"Man's Beginning," *New Tomorrow, Winter 1981*

"In the background of human history lies God's history of the providence, and not just human efforts. Why should God be involved in human history? Since He created human beings and maintains this world for the sake of fulfilling the ideal of creation, God cannot realize His ideal of creation without restoring us. Hence, without people's knowledge, history unfolds along the path of realizing God's ideal of creation."

—Father's Words on the Divine Principle II, pp. 5-6

"There is a formula in God's work of restoration. Before God sends the Messiah to restore people, He always prepares a central religion and a chosen nation as the foundation to receive the Messiah."

—PHG, p. 1320

"The story of the American Pilgrim Fathers ... fits into the pattern of the righteous people of history, such as Abraham, Isaac, and Moses."

—"God's Hope for America," *Christianity in Crisis: New Hope*, p. 53

"Looking at the history of God's providence of restoration or salvation, we see the existence of central nations and a central religion that take responsibility for God's providence. For example, in the Old Testament Age, Judaism, centering upon the Israelites, took responsibility for God's providence of salvation. In the New Testament Age, the bearer of the responsibility was Christianity centering on Christians in the western world."

—PHG, p. 1353

"God meant for the Roman Empire to unite completely with the Christian church of the time and march forward with it to save the entire world. ... However, the Christian hierarchy forsook the Will of God. ... God had no choice but to bring about the Protestant movement to pave once again the path of world salvation."

—PHG, p. 1305

"England had a good opportunity to be recognized as the leader of Protestantism. ... However, the Church of England was unable to recognize this important mission and, while enjoying the blessings of God solely for itself, it persecuted the Puritans rather than catching their vision to bring light to the world. So finally, God's Will had to move away. ... The Puritans ... crossed the Atlantic Ocean at the risk of their lives, cherishing the Will of God in their hearts. Together with them, the blessings of Heaven were moved to the American continent, and thus ... an interracial nation was formed centering on Protestantism."

—PHG, pp. 1305-6

"The United States became the standard-bearer of world salvation centering on God's Will. ... The founding principles of the United States eventually were articulated as 'One Nation under God,' which is not a coincidence, for the country came into existence under the Will of God. For this purpose, God has brought the six-thousand-year history of His providence to a victorious stage."

—PHG, p. 1306

"The First World War, the Second World War and the Cold War represent the three stages of formation, growth and completion. The three time-periods in which they were fought represent the Old Testament Age, the New Testament Age, and the Completed Testament Age."

—PHG, p. 1616

REFLECTION

Which quote was the most meaningful for you?

How would you put it in your own words?

What do you feel called to apply to your life this week?

How will you apply that this week?

WEEK 11

THE LAST 500 YEARS

Christianity and America

What trends can we
SEE IN HISTORY?

What is **AMERICA'S ROLE?**

Has America been
FULFILLING ITS POTENTIAL?

How can America
SERVE THE WORLD?

What is **LIBERATION?**

REVIEW

How did it go last week?

What did you learn?

READINGS

"We find in human life a tension between the pursuits of the spirit and those of the body. The spirit seeks after the realm of faith, while the body pursues the world of reason. Because of this, in human history two parallel currents have developed. One of these, being more rational and external, has placed emphasis upon the predominance of the body. The other major current in human development, known as the religious tradition, has emphasized values that are transcendent of the human body. ... These currents in human life are the basis of the two dominant ideologies that are in conflict in our world today. The democratic world, or the free world, has developed out of the religious tradition. ... Communism, on the other hand, is an outgrowth of the more external and secular current of human history."

—PHG, p. 1329

"If the United States had understood the Will of God ... it would have brought together the free nations of the world to join the democratic realm, thus restoring the entire world centering on God's Will. ... However, at the time, the United States essentially handed over the nations in Asia and the dependent states in Eastern Europe to the communist realm and brought about the partition of Korea and Germany. ... Moreover, the United States retreated from the holy position of protecting the free world, causing a nation like Vietnam, which was under that protection, to suddenly become an unfortunate sacrifice."

—PHG, p. 1308

"As a result, the trustworthiness of the United States plummeted internationally, and the cries of resentment continue to rise day by day. ... Within the United States, alarming problems are growing more and more severe each day ... racial discrimination, ... drugs, the corruption of adolescents, the destruction of the family, and the issue of crime."

—PHG, p. 1308

"The American people, having forsaken the Will of God—which would have us work for the family, the nation and the world, that is, for the sake of the whole—are now living instead with an extremely egotistical view of life and values."

—PHG, p. 1308

"The United States is in the same position as Rome in the past. The fall of Rome came more from internal moral corruption than from any external pressures."

—PHG, p. 1408

"A spiritual reform movement must arise, leading the United States toward the world of the providence at a higher level by uniting Christianity and bringing together all religions."

—PHG, p. 1309

"Until now, democracy has called for human freedom and human liberation. But we must also call for God's freedom and God's liberation. When we succeed in relieving God's sorrow, human liberation and the recovery of human freedom will follow naturally."

—PHG, p. 1409

REFLECTION

Which quote was the most meaningful for you?

How would you put it in your own words?

What do you feel called to apply to your life this week?

How will you apply that this week?

WEEK 12

SECOND ADVENT

Who, Where, How

What was **JESUS' MISSION?**

What are **TRUE PARENTS?**

Where might **THEY COME?**

When could we **EXPECT THEM?**

How will the
SECOND ADVENT UNFOLD?

REVIEW

How did it go last week?

What did you learn?

READINGS

"Jesus was the second Adam. It was God's will for him to be blessed in heavenly matrimony with the second Eve, his restored bride. They would have become the True Parents of humankind. And all people would have found life by grafting onto them. ... He is coming again as the third Adam. The marriage supper of the Lamb will take place. The True Parents of all humankind will be realized in our time. God will bring forth the true family upon the face of the earth. All men and women will be made new through the True Parents. All will be made capable of bringing sinless children into the world."

—PHG, p. 50

"The teachings of the Old and New Testaments tell us that the Messiah comes with the authority of the Father to meet the person in the position of God the Mother, who is the substantial form of the Holy Spirit, and restore the position of the True Parents. After the marriage supper of the Lamb prophesied in the Book of Revelation, the bride and bridegroom will pass through the stage of true husband and wife and become True Parents."

—PHG, p. 1441

"Civilization has completed a circuit of the entire globe and has now arrived on the shores of the Pacific Ocean. History's course has come to the point under God's providence where it has to be concluded in the Pacific Rim region."

—PHG, p. 1605

"If I may take Korea as an example, it must have a mission for the entire world. Hence, Korea should be able to live for the sake of the world. A system of thought able to lead to the Will of Heaven is surely needed. Many nations, many religions, many societies, many tribes, many families and many individuals will have to be incorporated into that realm."

—PHG, pp. 201-22

"Through victories in the First and Second World Wars and the third global conflict, the Cold War, [the United States] won victory over totalitarianism and communism. However, that victory does not simply mean that America is great and the development of human civilization stopped there. Victory came because God had chosen and raised the United States of America as the Second Israel, in accordance with His providential plan, and raised and trained the American people through Christianity."

—PHG, p. 1604

"By preparing both a spiritual and material civilization, [the United States] has become the nation that is equipped with the conditions to receive the Messiah, who comes again to save the world under the Will of God. ... Never before in history has there been a nation where the five races have lived together. ... It was God who brought about the victories of the First and Second World Wars, and it was the Will of God that guided the United States to organize the United Nations. ... Upon receiving the Lord, it can realize the united world where the ideal of creation is achieved."

—PHG, p. 1307

"I pledge to you from the bottom of my heart that the realization of all this is at hand, in the fullness of God's time."

—PHG, p. 50

REFLECTION

Which quote was the most meaningful for you?

How would you put it in your own words?

What do you feel called to apply to your life this week?

How will you apply that this week?

FINAL REVIEW

Congratulations! You've just completed 12 weeks of discussion and practice of the insights of the Divine Principle. To bring your experience to a close, we invite you to reflect on and share with your family or small group your overall experience during the last 12 weeks.

Which parts of your study were the most meaningful to you?

What challenges did you face?

What was the most important thing you learned and can take with you?

What do you see opening up next for you?
