

This midweek study will explore the topic of God's special revelation. Use the following main points, Scriptures, teaching/discussion ideas, and questions to help students gain a better understanding of the essential doctrine for this session.

Essential Doctrine: Special Revelation

Special revelation refers to God revealing Himself to humanity through historical events, His Word, and through Jesus Christ. Through special revelation, human beings learn about God's character, His will, His purpose for creation, and His plan of redemption. Special revelation shows us the nature and character of God, and because God has revealed Himself in this way, we can know Him—through a saving relationship with Him in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

1 Special revelation is God revealing Himself through His Word and Jesus Christ (John 1:1,14; Heb. 1:1-3).

Option: Invite students to list things that illustrate the difference between general revelation and special revelation?

- ▶ *What are the primary ways general revelation and special revelation differ?*

Read John 1:1,14.

- ▶ *How does this passage demonstrate special revelation?*

Not only was God the Father active in Creation, but Jesus was also with God in the beginning.

- ▶ *How does this particular instance of special revelation affect your view of Jesus?*

Read Hebrews 1:1-3.

The special revelation of Scripture is very clear about Jesus' identity as God.

- ▶ *How does Scripture being special revelation validate Jesus being God?*
- ▶ *How does Jesus being special revelation validate Scripture?*

2 Special revelation reveals God's character, purpose for creation, and plan for redemption (Ex. 34:5-7; Col. 1:15-20).

Option: Instruct students to partner with someone they don't know well. Ask them to share three interesting facts about themselves with the other person. After the activity, ask them how they know the other person better after gaining "special knowledge" from that person.

- ▶ *How does special revelation cause us to know God better? How does it help us discern His will?*

Special revelation assists believers in not only knowing mere facts about God, but also knowing His character, His thoughts, and His plans for the future.

Read Exodus 34:5-7 and Colossians 1:15-20.

- ▶ *Describe some of the character attributes of God we know from the special revelation of Scripture?*

- ▶ *What do we learn about Jesus' mission and plan for humanity from the special revelation of Scripture?*

Through the special revelation of Christ found in Scripture, we can trust that what God says about His character, purposes, and plans is true.

- ▶ *How does special revelation change how you read your Bible? What should your response to God's Word be, knowing it is special revelation?*

3 Through special revelation we know how to have a relationship with Christ (Eph. 2: 1-6).

Read Ephesians 2: 1-6.

Having a relationship with Christ isn't something God left us to figure out on our own. God gave us His special revelation so we can trust Him more completely.

- ▶ *How does special revelation help believers have assurance that Jesus is the only way of salvation?*
- The Scriptures teach that Jesus saving humanity wasn't an afterthought, but was God's plan from the very beginning because of His loving-kindness.
- ▶ *How does it affect you to know God wants to reveal Himself to you because He loves you deeply?*
 - ▶ *How does God providing special revelation to His people prove His love for us?*

WRAP IT UP

- ▶ *How does special revelation affect your relationship with Jesus?*
- ▶ *How does special revelation give you a greater confidence in the gospel?*

Challenge students to not only be in awe and wonder of the general revelation God provided in nature and in the world, but also to be more in awe of the special revelation of Jesus Christ found in Scripture.