

MIND IN LOVE WITH GOD 01

INTRO

One of the tragic casualties of our age has been that of the contemplative life—a life that thinks, thinks things through, and more particularly, thinks God's thoughts after Him.

The Bible places supreme value in the thought life. "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he," Solomon wrote. Jesus asserted that sin's gravity lay in the idea itself, not just the act. Paul admonished the church at Philippi to have the mind of Christ, and to the same people he wrote, "Whatever is true . . . pure . . . if there be any virtue . . . think on these things."

The follower of Christ must demonstrate to the world what it is not just to think, but to think justly. This study will challenge you to study the Word of God, read great books, and challenge the mind.

TIMELINE:

- **1 Week Out** - -Start by asking the small group members to read *The Lost Art of Thinking* by Ravi Zacharias the week before (either hand it out in the previous small group meeting, or email it to them.)
- **3 Days Out** - You should read "*The Lost Art of Thinking*".
- **2 Days Out** - You should read "*Let My People Think*" by Os Guinness.
- **1 Day Out** - You should read "*Truth or Consequences*" by Pratney.
- **The Day Of** - You should study the Mind in Love with God Discussion Notes and the handout so that you will be ready to teach in the small group meeting.

IN YOUR SMALL GROUP MEETING:

Teach from the Mind in Love with God discussion notes. Have ideas for a practical response – such as:

- Read through a particular book of the Bible together, or even the New Testament.

- Pick a good book to read together (see recommended reading list on the website.)

FOLLOW UP (ONE-ON-ONE'S):

- Always ask your members what they have been reading and thinking about. Hold them accountable to some kind of systematic study of scripture.
- Give them books, or let them borrow yours in order to get started.

RESOURCES:

WEBSITES:

- Ravi Zacharias: <http://www.gospelcom.net/rzim/publications/resources.php>
- Lion's Den (Daniel Savala): <http://www.ghg.net/dchurch/articles.htm>

BOOKS:

- *Fit Bodies, Fat Minds* by Os Guinness
- Anything by Ravi Zacharias (especially *Can Man Live Without God*)
- Anything by Francis Schaeffer (especially *The God Who Is There*)
- *A Ready Defense* by Josh McDowell (good for apologetics, speaking w/atheists, understanding cults, etc...)