

## 5 ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT GOD AND WHY THEY ARE WRONG

### SESSION 1: INTRODUCTION



#### IN THIS SESSION

This Session will introduce some foundational concepts used throughout this E4 Study. We will discuss the nature of assumptions—that they range from being good things all the way to dangerous things—and issue a challenge to begin seeing God in different ways as the Study progresses.



#### KEY PASSAGES

- **Isaiah 30:18** <sup>18</sup> Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him.
- **Matthew 11:28-30** <sup>28</sup> Come to me, all you labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
- **1 John 4:9-10** <sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation [i.e. means of forgiveness or reconciliation] for our sins.



#### DISCUSS

- Begin to brainstorm some fundamental assumptions you might have about who God is and what his purposes are for your life. What tends to be your “default” mindset when it comes to this? Do you approach God as your “get out of hell free” card? Do you approach him as one who is upset, angry or disappointed with you? Do you think of him in another way entirely? Take time to process this, as it will become a key aspect of future conversations in this Study.
- Begin to reflect on your past experiences with what people have told you about God or modeled for you. How do you think your view of God has been shaped or impacted by these influences? Who or what has been most influential in contributing to your present understanding of God? Why this person or event/experience?
- What are your expectations as you are initiating this Study? In other words, what are you hoping to accomplish as you move forward?



#### PRAY

- Pray that God would give you a fresh vision and understanding of his true character and desires for you. Ask that God would work in your heart to be open to a transformation of perspective.