

## Week 1: Welcome and Intro

### Fellowship

- **Eat:** Prepare the main dish to all share together, ask others to bring sides and drinks.
- **Talk:** Prepare lighter questions to engage together as you eat.
- **Check-Ins:** In a large group or small groups of 2-3 do an emotional check-in after the summer season. Then, ask about hopes and expectations for this scattered season (e.g. for house church or *Rule of Life* rhythms people have set in place).

### Adoration

- **Prayer and Worship:**
  - You could read one of the “evening prayers” from the *Common Prayer* book or App.
  - Have someone lead worship or use a speaker.
  - Give space to focus on the presence of God and speak out prayers of adoration.
  - Give space to ask God for words for the community for the Fall season.

### Learning

- **Teaching Hermeneutics:**
  - Small groups, bible studies, and house churches can sometimes devolve into everyone merely *sharing their predetermined opinion*, rather than *openly engaging and learning together*.
  - Try playing the “*Survival on the Moon*” Game as a way to explore how groups are more collectively intelligent than any one individual ([PDF here](#)). Everyone will need a pen and scratch paper. Have each person try to answer all 15 items on their own. Then get into groups of 6-8 people and have everyone work towards a group consensus of answers—meaning everyone agrees on the reasonableness of the order of answers.
  - This is an exercise in learning *critical realism by group consensus*, or the view of truth that acknowledges individual subjectivity while still pursuing the objective reality on any given matter. Further, this activity demonstrates that the group is almost always smarter than even the brightest individual.
- **Dialogue Questions:**
  - What did you observe from this activity? What did you experience and feel?
  - What could we learn from this activity about the concept of “Truth”?
  - How does this compare and contrast to your cultural perception of “Truth”?
  - Are there any applications or insights for studying Scripture?