

DUG
DOWN
DEEP
GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Based on the book by

JOSHUA
HARRIS

DUG DOWN DEEP
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Dug Down Deep by Joshua Harris is part spiritual autobiography and part doctrine survey—and all a plea for loving God better by loving biblical orthodoxy. It sets the topic of biblical truth firmly in the context of the believer’s relationship with the Lord. And it argues for the importance, not just of knowing or even agreeing with biblical doctrine, but of living it.

In this spirit of practical relevancy, the Group Study Guide helps you sort through what you believe about the book’s topic and what it will mean for your life. After reading *Dug Down Deep*, consider these questions with an eye to what God wants to teach you.

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1. In defining his purpose for the book in chapter 2, Harris says, “I write in the hopes that you’ll catch a glimpse of how good and beautiful the old paths of orthodoxy are, how firm and trustworthy the solid rock of sound doctrine can be for your life.”

What was your attitude toward Christian doctrine when you first picked up *Dug Down Deep*?

How is that attitude different now?

2. The key Bible passage for the book is Luke 6:46-49—the story of the wise and foolish builders. Read that story in your Bible.

Commenting on the parable, Harris says, “Being a Christian means being a person who labors to establish his beliefs, his dreams, his choices, his very view of the world on the truth of who Jesus is and what he has accomplished—a Christian who cares about truth, who cares about sound doctrine.”

Which builder would you say are you more like—the one who builds on the sand or the one who builds on the rock? Why do you say that?

3. In this book, Joshua Harris freely shares experiences from his own life, and from the lives of family members, that shaped his understanding of biblical orthodoxy. He goes so far as to say in chapter 1, “These pages are the journal entries of my own spiritual journey—a journey that led to the realization that sound doctrine is at the center of loving Jesus with passion and authenticity.”

Which personal events that Joshua tells about in the book can you relate to the most, and why?

If you were going to write journal entries about your own spiritual journey in relation to doctrine, what key experiences would you have to include?

How do you see caring about sound doctrine affecting your relationship with Jesus?

4. In the middle portion of the book (chapters 3–8), Harris looks at several key areas of doctrine. This isn’t systematic theology. As he says, “It’s more like a mixtape of biblical truth that I’ve found personally significant.”

Flip back through these chapters to refresh your memory of them. Here Joshua deals with the topics of God, the Bible, Jesus, the atonement, salvation, sanctification, the Holy Spirit, and the church.

What are some key points in these chapters that you didn’t know before?

What, if anything, does Joshua say in these chapters that you aren’t so sure you agree with, and why?

Besides the topics Joshua deals with here, what other areas of doctrine are you interested in, and how can you learn more about them?

5. Harris admits that it's perfectly possible, even common, for people who have correct doctrine to be jerks about it. But he says the response to that problem is not to give up doctrine but to give up arrogance. We should be both humble *and* orthodox.

What have you learned about God in this book, and what have you learned about yourself that should make you more humble?

6. Joshua says in the final chapter, "Here's a useful exercise. Go back over the doctrines we've studied in this book, and think about the real-world, real-life implications of each truth for your life. What would it look like to live the truth of each one?"

Why don't you do that—right now? Prayerfully and thoughtfully settle on ways these doctrines should change how you live your life.

MY APPLICATION...

God (chapter 3): _____

The Bible (chapter 4): _____

Jesus (chapter 5): _____

The atonement (chapter 6): _____

Salvation (chapter 7): _____

Sanctification (chapter 8): _____

The Holy Spirit (chapter 9): _____

The church (chapter 10): _____

7. Caring about sound doctrine is a lifetime attitude. Knowing about Christian doctrine is a lifetime pursuit. Applying Christian doctrine is a lifetime challenge...and privilege.

What changes will you make in your life to stay dug down deep in biblical doctrine *permanently*?

Who else in your life can you share the message of this book with?



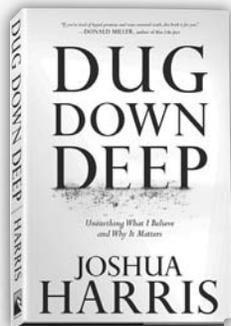
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

JOSHUA HARRIS is a pastor at Covenant Life Church in Gaithersburg, Maryland. He and his wife, Shannon, have three children. This is his fifth book. For information about Josh's work, online sermons, and updates on his speaking schedule, visit:

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