

# Ancient Faith: God The Father Almighty

## Small Group Discussion Guide

### Introduction (10 minutes)

- Welcome everyone and open with prayer
- Briefly summarize the main theme: Ken's sermon explored how God established hierarchy ("holy order") as part of His design for creation, reflecting the beautiful order within the Trinity itself.
- Opening question: When you hear the word "hierarchy," what immediate thoughts or feelings come to mind? Why do you think that is?

### Personal Connection (15 minutes)

#### Share and Discuss:

1. The sermon began with a story about Martin, who when taken in by a friend's family at age 16, said "I need rules." Can you share a time when having clear boundaries or structure helped you flourish?
2. Ken stated, "We all need rules, we all need boundaries, we all need guidance, we all need shepherding, we all need fathering." How have you experienced this truth in your own life?

### Biblical Foundation (20 minutes)

**Read together: Judges 21:25, 1 Corinthians 11:3, John 6:38**

#### Discuss:

1. What does Judges 21:25 reveal about human nature and the consequences of living without proper authority?
2. How does 1 Corinthians 11:3 describe the relationship between God the Father and Jesus? What does this reveal about hierarchy within the Trinity?
3. How did Jesus demonstrate submission to the Father during His earthly ministry? What was the ultimate result of His submission?

### Practical Application (25 minutes)

**Discuss the following areas of hierarchy mentioned in the sermon:**

#### Government:

1. Read Romans 13:1-2. How should Christians view government authority according to this passage?

2. What challenges do you face in respecting government authority in today's political climate?

### **Church:**

1. Read Hebrews 13:17. What responsibilities do both church leaders and members have according to this verse?
2. How does proper church leadership provide an environment where people can flourish spiritually?

### **Family:**

1. Read Ephesians 5:21-6:4. How does this passage describe God's design for family relationships?
2. What does godly leadership look like within a family? How is it different from worldly concepts of authority?

### **Cultural Challenges (15 minutes)**

#### **Discuss:**

1. Ken mentioned that hierarchy "has increasingly taken on a negative connotation in modern discourse." Why do you think our culture is increasingly resistant to the concept of hierarchy?
2. The sermon addressed how humans attempt to reorder creation (genetic modification, redefinition of gender). How can Christians affirm God's created order while engaging compassionately with those who reject it?

### **Personal Response (15 minutes)**

#### **Reflect and Share:**

1. In which area of your life (family, church, workplace, citizenship) do you find it most challenging to embrace God's designed hierarchy? Why?
2. What is one specific step you could take this week to better align with God's design for order in your relationships?

### **Closing (5 minutes)**

- Summarize key insights from your discussion
- Remind the group of Ken's concluding thought: "The task for Christians isn't to do away with Godly hierarchies because the world would like to, but to show the world how well it works."
- Close in prayer, asking God to help each person embrace His designed order and experience the flourishing that comes from living within it.

## **Looking Ahead**

- Remind everyone that Ken mentioned this is part one of a two-part message. Encourage the group to listen to the follow-up sermon which will address practical applications of hierarchy in families and churches.