

# **Biblical Foundations for Christian Discipleship**

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## Introduction

Bible study is good. Many Christians are plugged into a host of different Bible studies that bring them into a deeper understanding of the Scriptures. But Bible study by itself—devoid of any real life impact—is not good. Many of these same Christians spend their time studying the Scriptures but exert little effort to really apply it to their lives. The result is Christians who have a head understanding of the Bible but bear little fruit in their lives for Christ. They are in many ways like a group of people diligently studying the instruction manual to learn the best way to fix a lawnmower—but no one ever gets up from the huddle and fixes the lawnmower.

The Christians themselves are not (entirely) to blame for this state of affairs. Although there are some notable exceptions, many of the Bible studies they engage in are geared towards knowledge and spend little time on real life application. *Biblical Foundations for Christian Discipleship* is not this type of Bible study. In the sessions that follow participants will be exposed to eight areas of basic Christian discipleship and be assigned concrete ways of applying them to their lives. Warning: this study is not for the faint of heart. This kind of Bible study is for those who want to allow a deeper understanding of Scripture to make them more like Jesus.

## **Biblical Foundation One: Faith**

### **I. Preparing to Build**

Open in prayer.

Share highs and lows.

Ice breaker question: Who is someone in your life that you really trust?

Optional activity: Trust fall

### **II. Laying the Foundation**

As a group read together John 1:9-13 and discuss the following questions on the passage:

1. Who is the true light (v. 9)?
2. When he came, how did his people respond (vv. 10-11)?
3. What right was given to those who received him by faith (vv. 12-13)?
4. What does it mean to be born of God (v. 13)?

As a group read together Ephesians 2:8-10 and discuss the following questions on the passage:

1. What is grace (define this word) (v. 8).
2. What is faith (define this word) (v. 8).
3. How are we saved according to this passage (v. 8)?
4. Do we have to do anything other than exercise true faith to be saved according to this passage (vv. 8-9)?
5. What should be the result of our salvation (v. 10)?

As a group read together James 2:14-26 and discuss the following questions on the passage:

1. What does James say about faith without works (vv. 14-17, 26)?
2. Is it even possible to demonstrate faith without any kind of outward works (v. 18)?

3. How did true faith work itself out in the life of Abraham (vv. 20-23)?
4. How did true faith work itself out in the life of Rahab (v. 25)?
5. Does James 2:24 contradict Ephesians 2:8-10? Why not?

Take prayer requests and close in prayer for one another.

### III. Building on the Foundation

For homework review John 1:9-13 and read Romans 10:5-13.

1. Have you personally placed your faith in Jesus for salvation? If so, when did you do this?

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2. If you have not done this yet, what has been keeping you from doing this?

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3. If you are ready, reach out to your small group lead and ask them to walk you through placing your faith in Jesus for salvation.

Review Ephesians 2:8-10, James 2:14-26, and read Titus 3:4-8.

1. Is your faith in Jesus expressing itself in your life? If so, in what ways? List a few here:

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2. What are some additional ways you could show the world this week that you have trusted in Jesus? (If you have not been baptized this is the very first step!)

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Read Isaiah 44:6-8.

1. What are some ways we are tempted to trust in something other than God?

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2. What are some areas in your life where you need to take practical steps to make sure you are trusting in God rather than other things? (For example, is there a credit card you might need to cut up because you are trusting in it financially rather than the Lord? Do you need to spend some time fasting from your cell phone because you are overly dependent on it?)

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#### **IV. Inspecting the Work**

(This section is to be completed at the beginning of the next session.)

1. Have you placed your faith in Jesus? (If so, have you been baptized?)

2. What are some ways that you identified that you display your faith in Jesus to those around you?

3. What are some of the areas you identified where you need to move away from other things to make sure you are trusting in God? What did that look like this week in your life?

## **Biblical Foundation Two: Repentance**

### **I. Preparing to Build**

Open in prayer.

Share highs and lows.

Review the **Inspecting the Work** section at the end of session one.

Ice breaker question: Describe a time you did something you later regretted.

### **II. Laying the Foundation**

As a group read together Luke 3:1-14 and discuss the following questions on the passage:

1. What did the baptism that John preached symbolize (v. 3a)?
2. What is repentance (define this word) (v. 3)?
3. What was the result of repentance (v. 3b)?
4. What does repentance produce in our lives (v. 8a)?
5. What are some examples of the fruit of repentance John gives his audience (vv. 10-14)?
6. What happens to those who have no evidence of the fruit of repentance in their lives (vv. 7, 9)?

As a group read together 2 Corinthians 7:8-11 and discuss the following questions on the passage:

1. What did the Corinthians's sorrow lead to (v. 9)?
2. What two kinds of grief are there (v. 10)?
3. What does godly grief produce (v. 10a)?
4. What does worldly grief produce (v. 10b)?
5. How did godly grief work itself out practically in the lives of the Corinthians (v. 11)?

Take prayer requests and close in prayer for one another.

### III. Building on the Foundation

Read Matthew 3:1-10.

John's call to repentance prepared the way for the Lord Jesus (v. 2). How might repentance prepare the way for the Lord in your life?

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Review Luke 3:1-14 and 2 Corinthians 7:8-11.

1. Ask the Lord to show you some areas in your life where you may still need to repent. List a few here:

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2. How might that repentance practically express itself in your life? (List a corresponding life change for each area you listed above):

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3. What immediate steps will you take this week to make some of these changes?

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4. What do you need to help implement these changes in your life (guidance from a friend, an accountability partner, something else)?

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Read James 4:8-10.

What would a period of spiritual mourning to express true repentance look like in your life?

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#### **IV. Inspecting the Work**

(This section is to be completed at the beginning of the next session.)

1. Share with the group some of the areas of your life you identified where repentance is still needed.
2. What practical actions steps did you take this week to begin to make changes in these areas of your life?
3. How can your small group help you to continue to make these changes?
4. Did you practice any spiritual mourning this week over your sin (see James 4:8-10). What did that look like?



## Biblical Foundation Three: Bible Reading

### I. Preparing to Build

Open in prayer.

Share highs and lows.

Review the **Inspecting the Work** section at the end of session two.

Ice breaker question: Describe a time in your life when you received an important communication from someone.

### II. Laying the Foundation

As a group read together 2 Timothy 3:14-17 and discuss the following questions on the passage:

1. What do the Scriptures make us when we read them with a responsive heart (v. 15b)?
2. Where does Scripture come from (v. 16a)?
3. What are the things Scripture is useful for (v. 16b)?
4. What is the result in the life of the man of God (v. 17)?

As a group read together 2 Peter 1:19-21 and discuss the following questions on the passage:

1. What does Peter compare the prophecies of Scripture to (v. 19)?
2. Where does the prophecy of Scripture *not* come from (v. 20)?
3. Where does it come from (v. 21)?

As a group read together Hebrews 4:12-13 and discuss the following questions on the passage:

1. What does the writer say about the word of God at the beginning of the verse (v. 12a)?
2. How is the word of God like a sword (v. 12b)?
3. How have you experienced the word of God “discerning the thoughts and intentions of” your heart (v. 12c)?





day. When you finish that book choose another one.

2. Begin listening to the Bible on audio from the beginning to the end. You can do this while you drive or as you lay in bed at night. The Bible App provides the Bible with audio options in various English translations. Download this app onto your phone and begin listening through the Scriptures this week.

3. Begin a reading plan to read the entire Bible in a year such as the popular plan by the nineteenth century Scottish pastor Robert Murray M'Cheyne.

#### **IV. Inspecting the Work**

(This section is to be completed at the beginning of the next session.)

1. How did Psalm 119 spur you on to be in God's word more often?

2. Which Bible reading plan did you implement this week?

3. How has being in God's word on a regular basis started to positively affect your walk with God?

## **Biblical Foundation Four: Prayer**

### **I. Preparing to Build**

Open in prayer.

Share highs and lows.

Review the **Inspecting the Work** section at the end of session three.

Ice breaker question: Share about a time when you had to ask someone for a big favor.

### **II. Laying the Foundation**

As a group read together John 14:13-14 and John 16:23-27 and discuss the following questions on the passage:

1. In whose name do we ask according to these verses?
2. Who do our answered prayers glorify?

As a group read together John 15:7-10 and discuss the following questions on the passage:

1. What is the requirement for answered prayer in this passage (v. 7)?
2. How do we abide in Christ's love (vv. 9b-10)?

As a group read together John 15:16 and discuss the following questions on the passage:

1. Why did Jesus chose and point the disciples?
2. What is the result of abiding fruit in our lives?
3. In whose name do we ask according to this verse?

As a group read together Matthew 21:18-22 and discuss the following questions on the passage:

1. What miracle did Jesus do (vv. 18-19)?
2. What was the response of the disciples (v. 20)?
3. What is the "secret" behind the miracle (v. 21)?

4. What is the requirement for answered prayer in this passage (v. 22)?

As a group read together Romans 8:26-27 and discuss the following questions on the passage:

1. Who helps us when we don't know how to pray (v. 26a)?
2. What are His prayers like (v. 26b)?
3. How does the Spirit intercede for the saints (v. 27)?
4. How does it encourage you to know the Holy Spirit is praying for you and through you?

As a group read together 1 John 5:14-15 and discuss the following questions on the passage:

1. What is the requirement for answered prayer according to this passage (v. 14b)?
2. What is the confidence we have when we pray according to the will of God (v. 14a, 15)?
3. How does this passage connect and relate to what we learned about the way the Holy Spirit intercedes for us in Romans 8:26-27?

As a group read together Psalm 66:16-19, James 4:1-3, and 1 Peter 3:7 and discuss the following question on the passages:

1. What are things that can hinder our prayers according to these passages?

Let's put all of this together. Many people take a single statement of Scripture on prayer and make that the only requirement for answered prayer. Having looked at all these verses on prayer why would that be an unwise approach?

According to Scripture for our prayers to be answered we must:

- Ask (James 4:2)
- Ask in Jesus' name (John 14:13-14)
- Ask in faith (Matthew 21:21-22)
- Be abiding in Christ (John 15:7)
- Ask according to the will of God (1 John 5:14)
- Ask with right motives (James 4:1-3)

- Be repentant for sin in our lives (Psalm 66:18; 1 Peter 3:7)

Take prayer requests and close in prayer for one another.

### III. Building on the Foundation

#### Learning to Pray from Examples (Part 1)

Read Luke 11:1-4. How does this prayer serve as a model for us?  
What are the types of things Jesus tells us to pray for here?

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#### Learning to Pray from Stories

Read Luke 11:5-13. What do we learn about prayer from Jesus' saying about the friend (vv. 5-10) and the father (vv. 11-13)?

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Read Luke 18:1-8. How does this story encourage us to persistence in prayer? Have you ever prayed for something for a very long time?

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#### Learning to Pray from Examples (Part 2)

The following are examples of prayers Paul prayed for some of the

believers to whom he wrote letters. Read each of the following passages, taking note of the kinds of things he is praying for.

- Ephesians 1:15-19a
- Ephesians 3:14-19
- Philippians 1:9-11
- Colossians 1:9-12
- 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13
- 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24
- 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12
- 2 Thessalonians 3:16

Chose several people in your church and pray one of these prayers for them. Record the name of the person you prayed for and the passage you prayed for them here:

Person I Prayed For:	Passage I Prayed for Them:
1.	
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### Tools for More Focused Prayer

Chose one or more of the three tools below and try it out this week as a way to engage in more focused times of prayer. (Note: These can tools can be combined with one another as well, for example, journaling a prayer following the ACTS acronym during a time of fasting).

1. *ACTS Acronym*. Many Christians have found it helpful to use the acronym ACTS to organize their prayers.

- Adoration—spend time worshiping God
- Confession—spend time confessing your sins
- Thanksgiving—spend time thanking God
- Supplication—spend time lifting up specific requests

2. *Prayer Journal*. Some people have a hard time focusing when they pray. If this is you, consider grabbing a journal and writing out your prayers. Make sure to record the date so you can see when you prayed each prayer. You can review it periodically—and see the ways God has answered prayers you did not even remember



praying!

3. *Fasting*. Fasting is nowhere commanded in the New Testament but it can be a helpful tool to focus our prayers. Other things can be fasted besides food (see, for example, 1 Corinthians 7:5).

#### Personal Prayer Goals

Set a personal prayer goal moving forward.

My Personal Prayer Goal: I will make it my goal to spend \_\_\_\_\_ minutes in prayer at least \_\_\_\_\_ days a week.

#### **IV. Inspecting the Work**

This section is to be completed at the beginning of the next session.

1. How are you doing on your Bible reading plan (from session three)?
2. Which people in your life did you pray for and which one of Paul's prayers did you pray for them?
3. Which tools for more focused prayer did you try out? What was your experience like using this tool?
4. What personal prayer goal did you set? Did you meet this goal this week? Do you need to raise your goal? Was your initial goal too ambitious? (It's better to lower your goal than to just give up.)

## **Biblical Foundation Five: Forgiveness**

### **I. Preparing to Build**

Open in prayer.

Share highs and lows.

Review the **Inspecting the Work** section at the end of session four.

Ice breaker question: Share about a time someone forgave you.

### **II. Laying the Foundation**

As a group read together Matthew 6:12-15 and discuss the following questions on the passage:

1. How does Jesus teach us to pray for forgiveness (v. 12)?
2. What will happen if we forgive others things they have done against us (v. 14)?
3. What will happen is we are not willing to forgive others (v. 15)?
4. Can we genuinely ask God to do something for us that we are not willing to do for someone else?

As a group read together Matthew 18:21-35 and discuss the following questions on the passage:

1. How many times does Peter propose we should forgive someone (v. 21)? How do you feel about that number?
2. How many times in turn does Jesus say we are to forgive (v. 22)?
3. What is forgiveness compared to in the parable that follows (v. 27)?
4. What happens to the unforgiving servant at the end of the parable (vv. 32-34)?
5. What warning does this hold for us (v. 35)?

As a group read together Mark 11:25 and discuss the following questions on the passage:

1. *When* should we forgive according to this verse?
2. *Who* should we forgive according to this verse?
3. *Why* should we forgive according to this verse?

As a group read together Luke 17:3-4 and discuss the following questions on the passage:

1. If our brother in Christ sins against us what are we supposed to do (v. 3a)?
2. If he repents when rebuked what are we do to (v. 3b)?
3. How often are we to forgive someone who sins against us (v. 4)?

As a group read together Mark 11:25 and Luke 17:3-4 and discuss the following questions on the passages:

1. What kind of forgiveness is in view in Mark 11:25?
2. What kind of forgiveness is in view in Luke 17:3-4?
3. How are these two different kinds of forgiveness similar and different?
4. Can these two different kinds of forgiveness coexist?

As a group read together Luke 23:33-34 and discuss the following questions on the passage:

1. What does Jesus ask the Father for those who are crucifying him (v. 34)?
2. How does Jesus live out his own teaching on forgiveness here?

As a group read together 2 Corinthians 2:10-11 and discuss the following questions on the passage:

1. When we forgive, in whose presence do we forgive (v. 10b)?
2. What might Satan do if we are not willing to forgive (v. 11)?

As a group read together Colossians 3:12-14 and discuss the following questions on the passage:

1. Who are we to forgive (v. 13a)?



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Read Luke 17:3-4 and Matthew 18:15-17.

If someone has sinned against you, have you gone to that person to address the issue? If there is something unresolved in your relationship with someone, make it a point to reach out to them this week.

Read Leviticus 19:17-18.

Is there someone in your life you are holding a grudge against? Make a list of people you need to forgive. Lift each one up before the Lord in prayer and chose to forgive them.

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Read Matthew 5:21-24.

Is there someone you need to seek forgiveness from? What will you do this week to pursue reconciliation?

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**IV. Inspecting the Work**

This section is to be completed at the beginning of the next session.

1. How are you doing on your Bible reading plan (from session three)?
2. How are you doing on your personal prayer goals (from session four)?
3. How did you feel listing out so many things that you had been forgiven? Do you think this exhausts the list?
4. As you worked through people you may need to forgive, was there anyone this week you were *not* able to forgive? What are your next steps in handling that?
5. Was there anyone you went to this week to address ways they had sinned against you?
6. Was there anyone you went to this week to seek forgiveness from?

## Biblical Foundation Six: Service

### I. Preparing to Build

Open in prayer.

Share highs and lows.

Review the **Inspecting the Work** section at the end of session five.

Ice breaker question: Share about a time someone helped you out of a jam.

### II. Laying the Foundation

As a group read together Ephesians 2:8-10 and discuss the following questions on the passage:

1. How are we saved according to verse 8?
2. What is our salvation *not* a result of according to verse 9?
3. Whose workmanship are we (v. 10)?
4. Why are we “created in Christ Jesus” according to verse 10?
5. What therefore is the relationship between salvation and good works?

As a group read together Titus 3:1-8, 14 and discuss the following questions on the passage:

1. What are believers to be ready for (v. 1)?
2. What is *not* the reason Jesus saved us (vv. 4-5)?
3. How was it that he did save us (vv. 5-7)?
4. What should believers devote themselves to (v. 8a, 14)?
5. Why should they devote themselves to these things (v. 8b)?
6. What would be some examples of cases of urgent need (v. 14)?
7. How might devoting ourselves to good works also help keep us away from some of the negative behaviors mentioned in vv. 1-11 (see also v. 14b)?

As a group read together Galatians 5:13-14 and discuss the following questions on the passage:

1. What are we called to as Christians (v. 13a)?
2. What is a way that we could misuse that freedom (v. 13b)?
3. What *should* we use our freedom in Christ for (v. 13c)?
4. How does such service to each other fulfill the law (v. 14)?
5. How does serving others show our love for them?

As a group read together James 1:27 and discuss the following questions on the passage:

1. How does James define acceptable religion in this verse?
2. Is that a surprise to you (why or why not)?
3. How does your personal religion compare to the religion James describes in this verse?

Take prayer requests and close in prayer for one another.

### III. Building on the Foundation

Review Ephesians 2:8-10.

What are some of the good works that God has prepared in advance for you to do?

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What are some of the ways you have been walking in them? (If you have not been walking in them, what would you need to do to start walking in them?)

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Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 and 1 Peter 4:8-11.

What are some gifts you feel God has given you that you might use to serve his people? List a few here:

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What are some ways you are currently using your gifts to serve those around you?

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Take one or more of the following spiritual gifts assessments available online:

- <https://spiritualgiftsassessment.org/quiz>
- <https://gifts.churchgrowth.org/>
- <https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/quizzes-and-assessments/what-type-of-spiritual-gifts-do-you-have-quiz.html>
- You may also download, print, and fill out a paper copy of the “Spiritual Gifts Survey” from Lifeway (available online).

What were the results of your spiritual gifts assessment(s)? Did you learn anything new about yourself?

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What are some ways you could put those gifts into practice in your local church?

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Download, print, and fill out the worksheet, “Where do you feel God leading you to serve Him?” available online from Lifeway. What are some areas you would like to get involved?

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What are some areas where you can practically serve others in the coming weeks and months?

Examples might include things like:

- Volunteering in a soup kitchen
- Helping an elderly neighbor with their yard work
- Visiting a nursing home
- Taking a meal to a family facing challenging circumstances
- Volunteering as a mentor/tutor for students
- Helping to clean up around the church

Make a list of the ways you might serve in your world:

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Pick one of these and create an action plan to carry it out.

My action plan: \_\_\_\_\_  
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#### **IV. Inspecting the Work**

This section is to be completed at the beginning of the next session.

1. How are you doing on your Bible reading plan (from session three)?
2. How are you doing on your personal prayer goals (from session four)?
3. If you are comfortable share the results of your spiritual gifts assessment. What are ways you are currently using your gifts?
4. Share your results from the worksheet, "Where do you feel God leading you to serve Him?" What next steps do you need to begin serving the Lord in some of these ways?
5. What plan did you make to serve someone in a practical way? Is your plan similar to any other group member's plan? If so, what are ways that you might partner together to serve your community?
6. Who did not do these exercises? Why not?

## **Biblical Foundation Seven: Evangelism**

### **I. Preparing to Build**

Open in prayer.

Share highs and lows.

Review the **Inspecting the Work** section at the end of session one.

Ice breaker question: What is the strangest thing a stranger might ask you?

### **II. Laying the Foundation**

As a group read together Matthew 28:18-20 and discuss the following questions on the passage:

1. What has been given to Jesus (v. 18)?
2. What are the followers of Jesus to make out of all nations in light of this (v. 19)?
3. What is a disciple?
4. What three ways do Christians make disciples in these verses (hint, two of them are in v. 19 and one is in v. 20)?
5. Why is the going part so important?

As a group read together Romans 10:9-13 and discuss the following questions on the passage:

1. How is a person saved (vv. 9-10)?
2. On whom are people to call for salvation (vv. 12-13)?

As a group read together Romans 10:14-15 and discuss the following questions on the passage:

1. How can someone call on the Lord Jesus if they have never heard of him (v. 14)?
2. How does this fact underscore the urgency of sharing the gospel with others?
3. Who is sent to preach the gospel? Is any believer exempt from this?

4. Why do those who preach the gospel have “beautiful feet” (v. 15)?

As a group read together Matthew 9:35-38 and discuss the following questions on the passage:

1. What is Jesus' reaction when he sees the crowds (v. 36)?
2. *What* does Jesus tell his disciples to pray (v. 38)?
3. *Why* does he tell them to pray this (v. 37)?
4. Why do you think there are so few works in the harvest field?

As a group read together 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 and discuss the following questions on the passage:

1. What did Paul do to win the Jews (those under the law) (v. 20)?
2. What did Paul do to win those Gentiles (those outside the law) (v. 21)?
3. What did Paul do to win the weak (v. 22a)?
4. Why did Paul do all this (vv. 19, 22b-23)?

Take prayer requests and close in prayer for one another.

### **III. Building on the Foundation**

Read Romans 10:1.

Who are some unbelievers in your life you would be willing to commit to pray for on a regular basis?

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Review 1 Corinthians 9:19-23.

What are some ways you may need to become culturally more like

the unbelieving people around you in order to have more opportunity to share the gospel with them?

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Read John 4:1-26 and Acts 17:22-31.

How do Paul and Jesus use the circumstances around them as a bridge to sharing the gospel?

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What are some recent situations you have been in where you might have been able to take something from the situation or something from the conversation and use that turn a conversation towards the gospel?

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Read Acts 22:1-21 and Acts 26:2-29.

How does Paul use his testimony to share the gospel in these passages?

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Take some time to write out your testimony of how you came to

know Jesus here.

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Pick one of the following practical evangelism strategies and use it to share the gospel with someone this week.

- Invite a friend to church.
- Give someone a gospel track.
- Ask someone if they would like to take a spiritual interest survey (example included with this session). Use their answers to the survey to create a spiritual conversation.
- Share your testimony with an unbelieving friend. “Hey can we get together? There's something I've been wanting to share with you.”
- Ask someone if you can pray for them. After praying pass along the color coded Time to Revive wristband to remind them you prayed—and explain the colors and verses to them. Resources available at [www.timetorevive.com/resources](http://www.timetorevive.com/resources).

#### **IV. Inspecting the Work**

This section is to be completed at the beginning of the next session.

1. How are you doing on your Bible reading plan (from session three)?
2. How are you doing on your personal prayer goals (from session four)?
3. How are you doing on your service plan (from session six)?
4. Who are the unbelievers you have been praying for?
5. If you're comfortable, share your personal testimony with the group.
6. Which one of the practical evangelism strategies did you try out this week? How did it go?

7. Who did not do this exercise? Why not?



**Quick Glance  
Personal Survey**

- |  |     |    |
|--|-----|----|
| 1. Do you regularly attend a place of worship?<br>If yes, where: _____   | YES | NO |
| 2. Are you familiar with what the Bible teaches<br>about how to go to heaven?  | YES | NO |
| 3. Would you be interested in learning more<br>about how to begin a personal relationship<br>with Jesus Christ?  | YES | NO |
| 4. Would you be interested in learning more about<br>the many evidences for the truth of Christianity?   | YES | NO |
| 5. May we contact you regarding your responses<br>to this survey? If so, please share your contact<br>information here:<br>Name: _____<br>Address: _____<br>_____<br>Phone Number: _____<br>Email address: _____ |     |    |

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## Biblical Foundation Eight: Giving

### I. Preparing to Build

Open in prayer.

Share highs and lows.

Review the **Inspecting the Work** section at the end of session seven.

Ice breaker question: What would you do with a million dollars?

### II. Laying the Foundation

As a group read together 2 Corinthians 9:6-12 and discuss the following questions on the passage:

1. How does Paul say a person should *not* give (v.7)?
2. does Paul say each one *should* give (v. 7)?
3. How can we trust God to supply us as we give (vv. 8-11)?
4. What does our giving ultimately result in (v. 11-12)?

As a group read together Matthew 6:1-4 and discuss the following questions on the passage:

1. How do hypocrites give (vv. 1-2)?
2. How is our giving supposed to be done according to this passage (vv. 3-4)?
3. What will the result of such giving be (v. 4)?

As a group read together Matthew 6:19-21 and Luke 12:33-34 and discuss the following questions on the passage:

1. What's the problem with laying up treasures on earth (v. 19)?
2. Where are our treasures truly secure instead (v. 20)?
3. How do our possessions end up truly reflecting our heart (v. 21)?
4. So...how do we lay up treasures in heaven?

As a group read together Ephesians 4:28 and discuss the following

questions on the passage:

1. What is a former thief—now a Christian—commanded to do in this verse?
2. What is one of the purposes of work according to this verse?
3. Do you see your income as merely providing for your own needs?

Take prayer requests and close in prayer for one another.

### **III. Building on the Foundation**

Have each participant fill out a budget worksheet this week and think through the following questions:

1. Is giving currently a part of your monthly spending?
2. To what organizations or people do you typically give?
3. If you have not been giving, what are the factors that contribute to that?
4. If tight finances is one of the reasons you have not been giving, review your budget worksheet for discretionary spending. (a) Are there areas where you could cut spending (coffee, fast food, eating out, entertainment, cable, etc.) so that you would have funds available to give? (b) Is there anything you could sell so that you could have something to give (Luke 12:33).
5. If giving is a regular part of your life so far, make a plan to give an additional gift this week. The amount and nature of the gift are between you and the Lord.
6. If giving has not been a regular part of your life so far, review your finances to incorporate regular giving. Start with \$1 a month if necessary—and see what the Lord will do!

### **IV. Inspecting the Work**

This section is to be completed at the beginning of the next session.

1. How are you doing on your Bible reading plan (from session three)?
2. How are you doing on your personal prayer goals (from session

four)?

3. How are you doing on your service plan (from session six)?
4. Who have you shared the gospel with since the group last met (session seven)?
5. When looking at your budget worksheet, were you surprised by how much you spend in certain categories?
6. Without sharing details of amount, who gave a special gift as instructed last week? How did it feel? Was it hard? Was it rewarding?
7. Again without sharing details, who made a plan to incorporate regular giving into their monthly budget?
8. Who did not do this exercise? Why not?

## **Review of the Biblical Foundations**

### **I. Preparing to Review**

Open in prayer.

Share highs and lows.

Review the **Inspecting the Work** section at the end of session eight.

Ice breaker question: What is the most impactful thing you have learned during this study?

### **II. Reviewing the Foundations**

#### **Foundation One: Faith**

As a group read together Hebrews 11:1-2 and discuss the following questions.

1. Why is faith important in the Christian life?
2. How has doing the foundations study deepened your faith in God?
3. What are some areas you still struggle to trust God?

#### **Foundation Two: Repentance**

As a group read together Hosea 6:1-3 and discuss the following questions.

1. Why is repentance important in the Christian life?
2. What are areas where you have been making progress in repentance in your life?
3. What are areas that might still need to be addressed?

#### **Foundation Three: Bible Reading**

As a group read together Romans 15:4 and discuss the following questions.

1. Why is Bible reading important in the Christian life?
2. How are you doing on your Bible reading plan?

3. What are ways that reading the Bible consistently has begun to impact your life?

#### **Foundation Four: Prayer**

As a group read together Psalm 116:1-4 and discuss the following questions.

1. Why is prayer important in the Christian life?
2. How are you doing on your personal prayer goals?
3. Have you seen any answers to prayer?

#### **Foundation Five: Forgiveness**

As a group read together Colossians 3:12-14 and discuss the following questions.

1. Why is forgiveness important in the Christian life?
2. How has forgiveness enriched your relationship with other people in your life?
3. Is there anyone you still need to forgive?

#### **Foundation Six: Service**

As a group read together 1 Corinthians 16:15-16 and discuss the following questions.

1. Why is serving others important in the Christian life?
2. How are you doing on your service plan?
3. In what ways have the people you have served been blessed?

#### **Foundation Seven: Evangelism**

As a group read together Philemon 4-6 and discuss the following questions.

1. Why is sharing your faith important in the Christian life?
2. Who have you been sharing your faith with?

3. What are ways you can encourage other Christians to be bold in sharing their faith?

### **Foundation Eight: Giving**

As a group read together Malachi 3:10-12 and discuss the following questions.

1. Why is giving important in the Christian life?
2. What are some ways you have seen God bless you as you stepped out in faith and gave?

### **III. Inspecting the Work**

In this study we have worked through eight foundations for Christian discipleship. There is, however, only one ultimate foundation for the Christian life—and that is the Lord Jesus Christ himself. As a group read 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 and answer the following final question.

How are *you* building on the foundation of Christ in your life?