



DISCIPLESHIP

10 Foundational Basics
Every Christian Needs To Know
Part 2

A DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR SMALL GROUPS



CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION **P. 4**

SESSION 6: Understanding Worship **P. 5**

SESSION 7: Hearing God's Voice **P. 9**

SESSION 8: What is Sanctification? **P. 11**

SESSION 9: Evangelism **P. 16**

SESSION 10: Fellowship **P. 20**

INTRODUCTION

The Guide

Welcome to part two of our study on 10 Foundational Basics Every Christian Needs to Know. We've created this guide to help you become a disciple who can make disciples by providing a resource you can use to both refresh your personal understanding and help you consider how and what to pass on to a new believer.

We pray that it will give you the confidence you need to start stepping out in faith and whilst this list is clearly not exhaustive, it will hopefully allow you to begin discipling anyone who wants to know the basics of how to start living out the new faith they have in Jesus.

Inside the guide you will find Scripture to consider, questions to answer, suggestions, ideas and patterns to implement into your life. Our hope with this guide is that it will help you establish sustainable rhythms and disciplines as you seek to live out your faith in community with God's people and encourage you to pass it on.

The material is mostly based upon and adapted from the books *Multiply* by David Platt and Francis Chan and *Big 10 Discipleship* by Brian Brennt and Mike Riches. We believe the ten topics covered in this guide are essential and foundational disciplines for every Christian who is hungry to live out their faith practically.

Every person has a different and unique rhythm of life, so however you work this material out, it will probably look different to how someone else works this through. That's ok! What matters is that we are all faithfully seeking to follow our Saviour Jesus whilst joyfully fulfilling his commands, no matter how that looks.

From the beginning, God's good design has been for every single disciple of Jesus to make disciples who make disciples who make disciples until the gospel spreads to the ends of the earth.

We have a responsibility to grow in our love and service to God and others. This is what it means to be the church. We are not merely responsible for our own spiritual well-being; we are called to minister to the people around us, teaching them to obey all the things that Jesus commands.

The apostle Paul provides a great model for us when he writes in **1 Thessalonians 2:8** – *'Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well'*.

God wants us to live, serve and process truth in the context of a community. Working together with other people will be invaluable as you seek to sort out what the Bible is saying and how God wants that truth to play out in your life.

You can start by sharing with others what God is teaching you and the difference it is making.

We will be praying for you.

SESSION 6: Understanding Worship

Introduction

The aim of this study is to help us deepen our understanding of worship, both in our daily walk as disciples and in our discipling of others.

Opening Question: How would you define worship? What does it look like?

Passing it on: How would you explain worship to a new Christian?

Read together the following quote from Paul David Tripp:

'Human beings by their very nature are worshippers. Worship is not just something we do; it defines who we are. You cannot divide human beings into those who worship and those who don't. Everybody worships; it's just a matter of what, or whom, we serve.'

Discussion: Do you agree with this quote? Why? Consider why what we worship defines who we are. What are some of the things people often choose to serve rather than Christ?

Read **Rom. 12:1-2**

Question: How do these verses define Christian worship?

In worship everything we are, say and do can declare the Lordship of Jesus and give Him glory. We are made to be living testimonies to His goodness.

It means our corporate worship should be an expression and overflow of lives and hearts coming together which are totally surrendered to, and in love with our God.

Worship as a Christ-Exalting Lifestyle

There are many ways in which we can live a life of worship to Jesus. This study is an overview of 5 key pillars of worship. We will look at how we can apply them to our everyday walk with God. In doing so we will also see how we can help others we disciple to do the same.

Pillar 1: The Love of God - 'In view of God's mercy...'

Worship starts with redirecting our focus. We take our eyes off ourselves and instead look to the One who is above every Name.

Before anything else we need to have a right understanding of who our God is and all He has done for us. Our heart response of worship should, and always will, flow from a place of spending time with Jesus, dwelling in His presence and reflecting on his word.

Question: What are some of the ways in which we can help ourselves and others to grow in an understanding of God's character and nature?

Question: Can you give any examples (both biblical and experiential) of when a revelation of God's love/nature has changed your perspective or had an impact on your relationship with Him?

Pillar 2: Living Sacrifice - '*...offer your bodies as a living sacrifice...*'

We are called to emulate Jesus in all that He does. He gave up His life for us and we are called to give our lives for Him. Jesus is our Lord as well as our Saviour and that means submission and obedience to His will.

It is only from a place of security in who God is and who we are in Him that we will gladly choose to surrender to His Lordship. We must be convinced in our hearts that the God we are called to follow is the good God who gave everything for us. His ways are good and we will flourish when we walk with Him.

However, knowing all this does not make surrender or obedience suddenly easy. We must make a daily choice and regularly ask God to reveal to us any areas where we are not giving over complete control to Him.

Passing it on: Why is recognising your own daily need to surrender to God and being open about the times you struggle with it important in your discipleship of others?

Read the following texts:

Jer. 18:1-6,

Ps. 139:23-24

Isa. 64:8

Ps. 51:17

Pillar 3: Righteousness - '*...holy and pleasing to God. This is your true and proper worship.*'

In some versions 'true and proper worship' is translated as 'reasonable service.' In other words, the way we serve God with our lives is part of our worship to Him.

We know, as Christians, that our sacrifices and acts of service don't *make* us righteous before God. There is nothing we can do (or not do) to earn the right to be seen as holy and pleasing in His sight.

As God's children we *are* already seen as righteous, holy and pleasing to Him. We confidently stand before His throne of grace knowing we are accepted and forgiven, not because of anything within ourselves but because of Jesus alone – His blood and all He won for us on the cross.

However – Jesus did not just save us *from* sin and death. He also saved us *into* something – into a life of abundance and victory. By the Holy Spirit, we now have the freedom and power to walk free of our sinful nature to resist temptation and instead make every day righteous choices which are '*worthy of the calling we (by grace) have (already) received*'.

In making these right choices in the strength of the Holy Spirit several things happen - we honour God, we declare His holiness and righteousness, we take back ground the enemy has tried to steal from us, we live a life which reflects who we now are in Christ - and we raise Jesus up before a fallen world as the One who is on the throne of our lives.

Question: What are some of the day to day situations and challenges we or those we disciple face where there is a need to choose righteousness?

Pillar 4: Truth - *'Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.'*

Ephesians 6 tells us that the sword of the Spirit is the word of God.

What God speaks becomes reality by the power of the Holy Spirit. In the beginning the Spirit hovered over the water. God spoke and, from nothing, there was earth, sea, light, stars, and life. That is true transformation.

The amazing thing is that the same transformation is available to us as we submit our human intellect and worldly ways of thinking to God and allow the Holy Spirit to renew our minds through His truth and His promises.

This submission is more than just head knowledge. It is having complete trust in our God as we dwell in His presence and put our faith in the transforming power of His promises by choosing to actively live in the good of them – whatever our current circumstances may be.

Discussion: Share some testimonies of how God's word and promises have enabled you to walk through a difficult situation or break free of a lie or stronghold of the enemy

Passing it on: Give opportunity for people to share any challenges they are currently facing. Provide encouragement and ask God for scriptures to give to them. Pray His truth and His promises over them and their situation.

Pillar 5: God's Glory - *'Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - His good, pleasing and perfect will.'*

When Jesus taught us to pray He encouraged us to be a people who actively seek for God's Kingdom to come and His will to be done on Earth as in Heaven.

And what is His Kingdom? It is His rule and reign. The mind-blowing truth is that, every time our renewed minds discern God's will for a particular situation and we apply that we will bring His rule and reign in, darkness has to flee and the Name of Jesus is lifted high. Empowered by the Holy Spirit we are Kingdom-Carriers.

Question: What might this look like lived out in your own life intentionally?

Whatever it looks like - as we live out of our true identity as Children of God who can do all things through Christ who strengthens us; the worship of our lives will overcome the enemy and bring in the Kingdom. Be encouraged! You can live a life that declares Christ's Sovereignty and brings glory to Him.

Concluding Activity: Finish by spending some time worshipping God together. Express the wonder of who He is and what He has done. Conclude by reading aloud together **Isaiah 12**.

HOMEWORK:

Spend time individually with God asking Him to search you and show you any area in your life which may not be surrendered to Him. Ask Him to pour the water of His Spirit over those hardened areas and make you soft and mouldable in His hands.

Book Recommendation: *Awe* by Paul David Tripp

SESSION 7: Hearing God's Voice

Introduction

Prayer is about relationship, our relationship with the almighty God. It is an amazing privilege to have access to God through prayer.

God wants to communicate with us, he wants to have a conversation with us.

Opening Question: What are the elements that make for a good conversation?

God promises to speak to us.

Read **John 10:27**

Reflect: Read the verse a couple of times and think about it. What is it saying to us about God's voice and communication with us?

Passing it on: What might be some of the questions that new believers will be asking about hearing God's voice? How might you answer them?

The aim of this study is to bring both clarity and challenge.

We can have a distorted view of God speaking to us if we only think about the Old Testament and how he spoke to the Prophets of old. God speaks in many ways not just with an audible voice – which in fact, is quite unusual.

Question: Can you think of different ways in which God speaks today?

Activity: Look up the following scripture references and discuss what they have to say about how we hear God's voice. Can you give a personal example of hearing God in this way? (This may be as natural as a friend's encouragement, a sermon or as specific as a prophetic word.)

Daniel 9:2-3

Psalm 19: 1-2

Daniel 7:2

Acts 20:22

Acts 10:9-16

Acts 9:3-4

Gen 19:1-3

Luke 2:25-35

Matt 1:20

Question: How are we encouraged to react when we believe God has spoken?

Read the following passages:

Acts 17:11

1 Thess. 5:19-21

1 Cor. 14:3-4

Question: What do these verses say about prophecy?

Question: How can we grow in hearing God's voice?

Hearing God doesn't have to be complicated, but it does require faith and practice. Most of the time God speaks gently to us and not with trumpets and a loud voice. Our ability to hear God's voice will grow gradually, like muscles get stronger as we exercise and train.

When we come to God and ask him to speak it is helpful to recognize that it is a Holy God we serve, and sin in our lives can block our ability to hear clearly.

Passing it on: How could you help a new believer to grow in hearing God's voice?

Concluding Activity: Come before God and confess any known sin and receive his forgiveness.

Ask God to speak as you go through the week however he chooses.

Be ready to listen with expectancy. And read the bible often, assured that God is speaking.

HOMEWORK

Over the coming week expect to hear God speak to you, come to him at a point each day and ask him to speak.

Take some notes about what you think he may be saying as well as any questions that arise out of this. Share what he is saying with another Christian.

Book Recommendation: *Surprised by the Voice of God* by Jack Deere

SESSION 8: What is Sanctification?

“Be killing sin, or sin will be killing you” – John Owen

Introduction

Sanctification means to set apart or declare holy. In the context of Christianity, sanctification is related directly to holiness, or being set apart unto God.

Opening Question: What does it mean and look like to be Holy?

Question: One of the goals of the Christian life is to grow in Holiness. When was the last time you considered your own progress? What kinds of areas would you like to see more growth?

Word + Spirit = Transformation

The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers & Devotions is rich food for the soul.

Activity: Read aloud the following prayer before you progress:

Father,

I can but tell you how you know
that I long for nothing but yourself,
nothing but holiness,
nothing but union with your will.
You have given me these desires,
and you alone can give me the thing desired.

My soul longs for communion with you,
for mortification of indwelling corruption,
especially spiritual pride.

How precious it is
to have a tender sense and clear apprehension
of the mystery of godliness,
of true holiness!

What a blessedness to be like you
as much as it is possible for a creature
to be like its Creator!

Lord, give me more of your likeness;
Enlarge my soul to contain fullness of holiness;
Engage me to live more for you.
Help me to be less pleased with my spiritual experiences,
and when I feel at ease after sweet communing's,
teach me it is far too little I know and do.

Blessed Lord,
let me climb up near to you,
and love, and long, and plead, and wrestle with you,
and pant for deliverance from the body of sin,
for my heart is wandering and lifeless,
and my soul mourns to think it should ever
lose sight of its Beloved.

Wrap my life in divine love,
and keep me ever desiring you,
always humble and resigned to your will,
more fixed on you,
that I may be more fitted for doing
and suffering.

Amen

Discussion: What feelings or reaction do those words evoke in you?

Read **1 John 3:1-3**

Sanctification has three components: positional, progressive and perfected.

Positional Sanctification

Positional Sanctification is by virtue of our relationship with Jesus Christ. It is similar to a son being born into a royal family. By virtue of his birth he is royalty, that *is* his position. By virtue of our being born into God's Kingdom through relationship with Jesus we *are* sanctified, or set apart unto God. No matter how the royal son progresses in his conduct as a royal, the fact of his position cannot be nullified.

Progressive Sanctification

Progressive sanctification begins at salvation and continues until we enter our heavenly state. Wayne Grudem describes this progressive component of sanctification as '*...a progressive work of God and man that makes us more and more free from sin and like Christ in our actual lives*'. The emphasis of this study and our growth in holiness in the Christian Life is on this second component.

Perfected Sanctification

The final component of sanctification is perfected sanctification. This will be realized when we begin our eternal existence in heaven. Our battle with our sinful flesh, the sinful world system, and the demonic world will end. Our holiness will be perfected and secure; we will be fully like Christ, except for His deity.

Return to **1 John 3:1-3**

Question: Can you identify the three components of sanctification in this passage?

The amazing truth is that we are privileged to be in the *position* of God's children – set apart from the sinful world and Satan's kingdom with the life of Jesus' nature imparted to us. At the same time, we have the opportunity and challenge to grow progressively in practical holiness of action, attitude, speech, and character – we want to become more like Jesus daily, not only in spiritual position but also in practical action. The fight and challenge of our progressive sanctification will be fully realised when our life here is finished. When we enter our heavenly existence, our sanctification will be in a *perfect* or complete state – fully aligned with our position in Jesus Christ – completely formed into His image.

Read **Romans 8:29-30**

Question: How do these verses encourage you to pursue Holiness?

The Human-Divine Cooperative in Our Sanctification

God's Role in Our Sanctification

Sanctification is the life of God we receive at salvation growing in us. We cannot create God's life and impart it to ourselves – it is purely His work. Likewise, sanctification is not something we can generate; this too is a work of God.

Lookup the following verses which relate to our practical sanctification as a work of God. Remember, we are His masterpiece, and we are to cooperate with Him as He leads the transformation of our lives.

Read **John 1:12-13, 1 Thess. 5:23, 2 Thess. 2:13 and Gal. 5:22-23**

Our Role in Sanctification

Whilst it is God who sanctifies us, we must understand our personal responsibility in our sanctification.

Read **Romans 8:13 and Phil. 2:12-13**

Paul presents an appropriate resolution between the believer's part and God's part in our sanctification. He makes no effort to rationally harmonise the two. He simply states both truths, saying sanctification is simultaneously of God and of believers.

This dual emphasis is found throughout the New Testament.

Read **2 Peter 1:3-10, 1 Cor. 6:8, 2 Cor. 7:1, 1 Thess. 4:3 and 1 Cor. 15:10.**

Question: What do you think a radical pursuit of holiness might look like? Do you find this challenge a bit scary? Daunting? Appealing? Why?

Motivation for Holiness

Question: Holiness is God's stated goal for every believer. What lesser, competing priorities can tend to consume our time, energy, and focus as believers?

Discussion: 'A pursuit of holiness that is not Christ-centered will soon be reduced to moralism, pharisaical self-righteousness, and futile self-effort. Such pseudo-holiness leads to bondage, rather than liberty. . .' Can you identify with this statement in your own life?

Quote: Read the following extract by **Thomas Chalmers** from ***The Expulsive Power of a Greater Affection***

It is seldom that any of our [bad habits or flaws] are made to disappear by a mere process of natural extinction. At least, it is very seldom that this is done through the instrumentality of reasoning...[or by] the mere force of mental determination.

But what cannot be thus destroyed may be dispossessed – and one taste may be made to give way to another, and to lose its power entirely as the reigning affection of the mind...The heart's desire for having some one object or other, this is unconquerable...The only way to dispossess [the heart] of an old affection is by the expulsive power of a new one...It is...when admitted into the number God's children, through faith that is in Jesus Christ, [that] the Spirit of adoption is poured upon us – it is then that the heart, brought under the mastery of one great and predominant affection is delivered from the tyranny of its former desires, and is the only way in which deliverance is possible'.

Read **Hebrews 11: 24-26**

Discussion: Would you agree that there is a 'purifying power in treasuring Jesus?' How has that worked out in your own life?

Discussion: How does Christ's sacrifice on the cross provide a motivation to pursue holiness?

Quote: Conclude by reading the following extract by **J.C. Ryle** from his book ***Holiness***.

'Would you be Holy? Would you become a new creature?

Then you must begin with Christ.

You will do nothing at all, and make no progress till you feel your sin and weakness and flee to Him. He is the root and beginning of all holiness, and the way to be holy is to come to Him by faith and be joined to Him...Men sometimes try to make themselves holy first of all, and sad work they make of it...Do you want to attain Holiness? Do you feel this day a real hearty desire to be Holy? Would you be a partaker of the divine nature?

Then go to Christ. Wait for nothing. Wait for nobody. Linger not. Think not to make yourself ready. Go and say to Him, in the words of that beautiful hymn – 'Nothing in my hands I bring, simply to the cross I cling; naked, flee to thee for dress; helpless look to thee for grace.' There is not a brick nor a stone laid in the work of our sanctification till we go to Christ'.

Pray: Respond by coming to Jesus in prayer for help to treasure Him and for power to kill sin in your lives.

HOMEWORK

Read **Col. 3:1-17**

This chapter introduces the concept of the mortification of sin—the “putting off” of our old, corrupt way of life. This passage offers helpful insights into what we are to put off, as well as what we are to put on in its place.

Question: What are we to “put to death”? Why should these things no longer be a part of the Christian’s life?

Question: What are we to put on? Why? How do these qualities compare and contrast with the things we are to put off?

Question: How are Christians described in this passage? How should that description spur us on to pursue holiness?

Select one virtue from **Colossians 3** that you sense a need for in your life; meditate on how that virtue is perfectly manifest in Christ and ask God to make that quality real in your life by the power of His Holy Spirit.

Is there any source of temptation you are holding on to? Confess to God any specific sins you need to “put off”.

As you “put to death” that which is not pleasing to God, don’t forget to also consciously “put on” your new life in Christ!

Book Recommendation: *Holiness* by J. C. Ryle

SESSION 9: Evangelism

Introduction

Definition: The word 'evangel' means 'gospel' or 'good news'.

Evangelism is sharing the good news of God's love because he is patient with us, '*not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*' - **2 Peter 3:9**

Opening Question: How do you respond to the word 'evangelism'?

Question: How do you respond to the words 'good news'?

Discussion: What does the gospel, the good news mean to us? Share as a group, or chat about this with the person you are discipling.

Respond: Spend some time worshipping and thanking God in response to what he has stirred in you.

Read **Jeremiah 20:9**

Question: How do we respond and relate to this?

Love is the key to evangelism! True love encompasses the recognition of both God's love and his justice. When we truly love someone, we want them to know about Jesus, the lover of their soul. We want them to know they are on a path to destruction, but that through the grace of God, they can be made whole, right, and be filled with joy and purpose!

There is an overabundant joy to the gospel message. There is so much bad news all around us – death, war, disease & disaster. There are many in the world that never hear a message of good news. We have in our possession a gift that the ancients never saw, and which the angels long to look into (**1 Peter 1:12**). We have the best news that can ever be: God made a way for us to be his everlasting children. Our sins were red as scarlet, but now they are washed away!

What is the Gospel?

Read **Romans 1:16** and **1 Corinthians 15:3-5**

Question: What is the gospel message that we see in these verses?

Read **Acts 2:36-39**

Question: What do these verses teach us is a fitting response to the message of the gospel?

How do I share the Gospel?

The gospel itself is a single, central truth, but that truth can be explained in a myriad of different ways. Get to know key scriptures that explain the gospel and let the Holy Spirit guide you in the application of sharing the message in different ways, with different people in different situations. Jesus described evangelism as 'fishing for men'. We must remember that not all fish like the same bait! We need to bring the gospel to others in

ways that they can relate to and understand. We never hide the truth, but we also never use it to confuse others by presenting lofty arguments and confusing dialogue.

One example of how to share the gospel is on the handout '*Knowing God – a short guide to gospel truth*' found at the end of this study. It's best though not to learn a memorised script of evangelism but instead to let it saturate our very being. If the truths of the gospel literally consume our minds and hearts, they will come out of our mouths with power and authority. If we are saturated with the Spirit of God like a sponge, we will be filled constantly and will even overflow with life, love and passion for the lost.

Why is 'giving my testimony' so important?

Read **Revelation 12:10-11**

Question: What do we think sharing our testimony does for others?

Question: What do we think it does for us?

An important part of a gospel presentation is often our personal testimony. There is a lot of power in telling others what Christ has done in our lives. This gives them the opportunity to see the gospel in action. Share what you have been through, where you have come from, and what Christ has changed in you. Write your story down. Read it out loud – often – until you are comfortable with sharing it publicly.

Make sure your testimony is always centred on the person of Jesus Christ and does not glorify your former way of living. Remember, the goal is to have Christ glorified, not you! Be sure to have the pure gospel message laced throughout your presentation. Then let the excitement begin! Let the joy flow! No one wants to hear a story from someone who seems bored. Let the excitement of your salvation show as you share your testimony. You have a lot to be joyful about – let your joy beam!

HOMEWORK

You have only one assignment. Share the gospel and your testimony with at least one person this week. It could be a parent, a sibling, a friend, a colleague, or a stranger on the street.

Book Recommendation: *Multiply* by Francis Chan and David Platt

HANDOUT: Knowing God – A Short Guide

How Can I have a Relationship with God?

What does God's Word, the Bible, say about having a relationship with Him?

The Bible tells us three things about God:

1. God is holy (pure, without sin).
2. God is love (wants all to know Him).
3. God is just (sin must be punished).

The Bible tells us three things about us:

1. We have all rebelled against God.
'All have sinned and fall short of God's glory.' – **Romans 3:23**
2. **Even one sin is enough to separate us from God.**
'Whoever keeps the whole law, (ten commandments), and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.' – **James 2:10**
3. **God's requirement for us is to be perfect.**
'Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.' - **Matthew 5:48**

According to God's Word, how do you think you measure up to this standard?

How then can we have a relationship with God if we fall short of this requirement?

There is good news for us all, and that is the gospel of God!

The Bible tells us that God wants a relationship with us.

God's Word in **Isaiah 59:2** says, *'But your iniquities (sins have made a separation between you and your God'*.

Most of us are aware of this and **try to do things to get back to God, and even though they are 'good things,' it still doesn't work.** The Bible says, *'And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment.'* (**Isaiah 64:6**)

The sins we have committed have to be punished, and the punishment is death, including separation from God. *'All have sinned and fall short of God's glory.'* (**Romans 3:23**)

But God did for us what we couldn't do. He built a bridge back to Himself through Jesus Christ by dying on the cross and paying our death penalty (see **Romans 6:23**). The Bible says, *'God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.'* (**2 Cor. 5:21**)

But it's not enough just to know this. **We must act on it by admitting that we have sinned and ask God to forgive us and be our Leader.** The Bible says, *'That if you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead,*

you will be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.’ (Romans 10:9-10).

‘Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.’

**Do you know you are a sinner in need of God?
Do you want a relationship with God?**

Your response:

You must trust Jesus Christ and receive Him by personal invitation. The Bible says, *‘But as many as received Him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name’.* (John 1:12).

To receive Jesus:

1. Admit you are a sinners.
2. Be willing to turn from your sins (repent).
3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross and rose from the grave.
4. Through prayer, invite Jesus Christ to be the Saviour and Leader of your life.

What to Pray

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness, I believe that You died for my sins. I want to turn from my sins and trust You for my salvation. Come into my life and be my Saviour and Leader.

If you prayed this prayer and truly meant it from your heart, then God has already forgiven you and your relationship has begun.

Your assurance of salvation is based upon God’s Word:

‘Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My words, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgement, but has passed out of death into life.’ (John 5:24).

‘Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.’ (Romans 10:13).

How to grow in your new life in Jesus Christ:

1. Start reading God’s Word every day to get to know Him.
2. Spend time talking to God, which is what the Bible calls prayer.
3. Spend time with other believers who can encourage you in your relationship with God.
4. Be part of the worship services and learning opportunities at your local Bible believing and teaching church.

SESSION 10: Fellowship

Introduction

Opening Question: When you hear the word *'fellowship'*, what springs to mind?

Fellowship is Foundational to Christian Living

Fellowship is one of the key ingredients to becoming more like Jesus. It is one of the means used to establish God's Kingdom on earth. The word fellowship is translated from a New Testament word that means *'common bond, community, sharing that is participated in, joint participation.'*

Fellowship is both spiritual and practical. There is a vertical aspect between God and humanity and there is a horizontal aspect between believers.

Read **1 John 1:3-4**

Question: From this scripture who are we to enjoy fellowship with?

Question: What are the likely results of sharing in this sort of fellowship?

Read the following passages:

Hebrews 10:23-25

Proverbs 27:17

Acts 2:42-47

Discussion: In a group setting share together what things group members feel we will miss out on if we fail to meet together and share fellowship. Talk around the benefits of being together and the loss of not being so.

Interdependence and Agape Love

Read **Romans 12:1-2**

Paul wrote to not be conformed to the patterns of this world. The patterns of this world tend to be independent, self-sufficient and selfish. Fellowship moves in an opposite spirit to independence and self-sufficiency. Western culture celebrates the value of independence and self-sufficiency, yet the Bible celebrates interdependence. True godly fellowship flows out of agape (selfless) love.

Discussion: In a group setting share together ways in which we need to see our minds renewed and transformation come to our lives. Having shared encourage one another to share areas where they feel the need for further transformation and renewed ways of thinking.

Activity: Take time to minister to and pray for one another in these areas.

Four stages of 'Fellowship'

1. Infrequent 'fellowship'

Attending church from time to time for seasonal activities or to please a family member or friend. Spiritual life is marked by carnality, blindness, apathy, unbelief, ingratitude.

2. Survival attendance

This person attends just enough to get barely spiritually fed. Spiritual life is marked by being 'stuck' with no recognition that they are in real trouble; self-focus; resistance.

3. Booster attendance

This person comes with a 'give me more' attitude and is strongly focused on their personal needs. They may move from church to church because 'their needs' are not being met. Their spiritual life may be marked by passivity; emotions – they may say they want more of Jesus, but may struggle to commit or pay a cost for following him; self-rule – they may not easily choose one church body and submit themselves to the delegated authority of the leadership and so 'church hop'.

4. Faithful

This person is full, complete. Their spiritual life is marked by maturity, a sense of responsibility, loyalty and commitment to the body and the leadership, with great fruit being seen in their lives.

Passing it on: If working one-on-one with someone it might be appropriate to talk with them about how they might move on in their fellowship. What might you suggest?

HOMEWORK

Ask yourself what stage of fellowship you are engaged in?

What steps do you need to take to move into healthier fellowship with other believers and with Jesus?

Book Recommendation: *Community* by Brad House

