

IN THE BEST  
THE  
CONNECT  
GROUP  
EVER

The image features a central graphic design on a solid green background. The text "IN THE BEST THE CONNECT GROUP EVER" is rendered in a white, hand-drawn, sans-serif font. The words are arranged in a vertical stack, with "IN THE BEST" at the top, "THE" in the middle, "CONNECT" below it, "GROUP" below that, and "EVER" at the bottom. The text is surrounded by intricate, yellow, hand-drawn flourishes that resemble stylized waves or calligraphic scrolls, creating a dynamic and artistic composition.



## **How To Use This Book?**

This book is an instruction manual for you as a Connect Group leader. It will guide and assist you in many ways including: understanding the purpose of Connect Groups, answering frequently asked questions, and will help guide you in laying out your Connect Group each week.

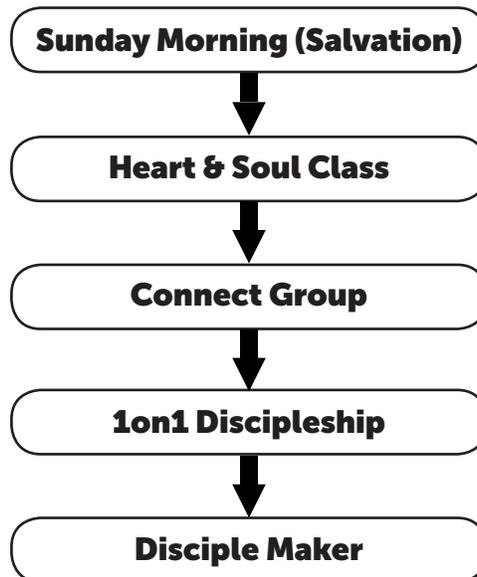
It includes all the sessions that you will be asked to cover with your group over the next 1-2 years. These sessions are a guide to help you accomplish the purpose of Connect Groups. They are not meant to handcuff you or make groups mechanical. Each group will look different and that is okay. Each session gives you a goal, an example of how your group could flow, and a more specific look at how the discipleship material can be used.

# Understanding Our Church Model

Connection Church exists to connect people to growing relationship with Jesus Christ. For adults, the two main avenues we use to successfully accomplish this mission are Sunday Worship Experiences and Connect Groups. These two avenues work hand in hand. As a leader, it is important to know our intentions for each of these. Our Sunday large gatherings are an entryway into the church and focus mainly on connecting people to Jesus. They are very evangelistic in nature. Our Connect Groups are smaller family-like communities that focus on discipleship and connecting people to each other.

# Understanding Discipleship at Connection

Like Jesus, our goal is that every believer would grow into a disciple-maker. The process below shows how we plan to move people towards this goal:

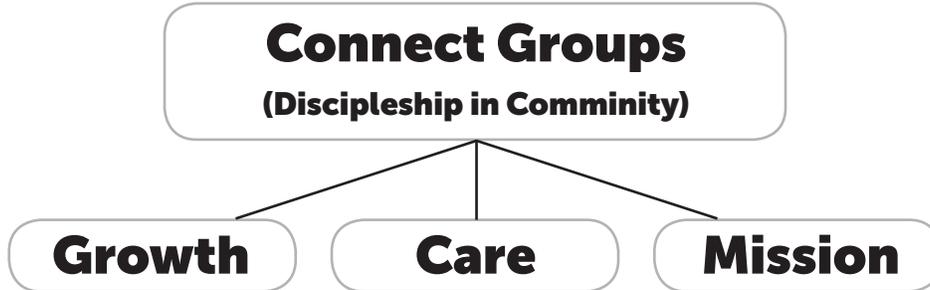


Discipleship begins at salvation. Once someone receives Christ and/or desires to get involved deeper than Sunday Mornings, we funnel them into the Heart & Soul class. This class introduces them to a growing relationship with Jesus and the church. Upon completion, people have the opportunity to serve, give, and join a Connect Group. The majority of discipleship takes place in Connect Groups. Once someone has a desire to go deeper, 1on1 discipleship is the way to move them towards disciple-making.

# Understanding Connect Groups

Connect Groups are a huge part of our discipleship. It is important for you to understand that they are designed to help people grow spiritually and to help each person in your group move towards God’s goal for each of our lives which is to make disciples.

The best way to think about your group is “Discipleship in Community.” A Connect Group is a family to belong to; not an event to attend. As the leader, you are the shepherd of the family. The group will go where you lead it. Focus your attention on three areas: growing together, caring for one another and helping each other embrace the mission of God to make disciples of all nations. There is no A+ B = C when it comes to leading a group successfully. However, depending on the power of the Holy Spirit and focusing in on these three things will be very helpful.



# Understanding the Format

Your group meetings should include four simple components: a meal, a share time, an intentional discipleship topic, and an opportunity for weekly accountability. This format will help your group prioritize 2 things: sharing life and disciple-making.



**Meal**— Sharing a meal together helps build relationships quickly and creates a family feel. It will allow people to get to know one another in a low-pressure environment. This meal can be anything from an appetizer, to dinner, and/or a dessert. Divide up meals each week between group members. It will create ownership and keep costs down.

**Share** – People grow a lot by having to articulate what God is teaching them. The majority of Christians have never been taught how to hear from God through His Word. The purpose of this time is to help people learn how to do this. This will happen organically as people walk through life together, share, and encourage each other from their own relationship with God. This can be anything from questions, experiences, life frustrations, prayer requests, etc. Pick out a book of the Bible together and challenge your group to read 2-3 chapters per week. Then, begin each week by allowing each group member talk about what God is teaching them. Make it your goal to hear from each person weekly and create an atmosphere where each member feels responsible to share. This will be a vital part of their individual growth. The success of this time should be measured by the degree to which you know where each person in your group is in their relationship with God. For couples groups, it can be a little more difficult getting people to open up. Try dividing up into guys and girls after a few weeks. This will be very helpful.

**Discipleship Topic** – God’s goal for all believers is that we would be disciple-makers. The goal of this time is to intentionally model, equip, and help people move towards that goal. ***This book includes discipleship sessions covering 50 different topics that are broken down into 3 phases: introducing real community, building a strong foundation, and mobilizing your group to make disciples.*** Each week, you will have a different discipleship topic to discuss as a group. These 50 topics are intended to be covered over a 1-2 year period (104 weeks) so that you have room to spend as much time on topics as you need. Also, if there are other topics not included that you think group needs to discuss, you have room to fit those in. The goal is to figure out what your members know about each topic, discuss what the Bible says about it, and then talk about how it applies to our lives. This time will consistently keep the goal of creating disciple-makers in front of you.

**Accountability** – Offer this to those in your group who desire to have an accountability partner. Match them up with someone else in the group. Having someone in our life to ask us tough questions and be transparent with can help us grow tremendously. The purpose of accountability is to have one or two people in our lives that we can be thoroughly honest with and can speak truth into our life.

## **Be Dependent**

Your relationship with God is the most crucial thing when leading a group. The key to leading people is God leading you. The Holy Spirit is our greatest asset. Listen to Him. As we press in to God personally, we become the leader He wants us to be. Satan knows this and will without a

doubt try to attack you personally. Be ready and watchful! Remember, being a leader is not about being perfect. It's about pursuing Jesus, walking in repentance, and being transparent about it. It's okay to not have all the answers. If you often find yourself on your knees praying, that's a great indicator that you are leading well. God changes people's hearts, not you. Dependence on Him is our greatest asset.

## **Prepare Intentionally**

Some effective group leader personal practices include carving out time to regularly think about your group members, praying for your group, and preparing for your time together using scripture and the discipleship topics in this booklet. It is vital that your personal time spent with the Lord remains separate from your time preparing for the group. Allowing your group preparation time to be an added layer to your walk with the Lord and not a substitute for your personal time with the Lord will maximize your ability to lead your group.

## **Importance of Multiplication**

It is vital that new groups are forming regularly. You are essential in this process. It's important to cast vision to your members that groups are intended to multiply, not stay together forever. This is not to cast fear onto your group members, but to introduce and prepare them for the reality that each of them will be equipped, and some of them may be called to lead their own group.

In fact, Connect Groups are designed to last for 1.5 - 2 years and then multiply to form new groups to reach more people. As a group, set a goal early on to plant a new group. One way to keep this goal alive is to call on your group members to lead at some points throughout the life of your group. This will help prepare the group members to take ownership of the group while also preparing your group members for making disciples.

God's purpose for every Christians' life is to know Him and make disciples. Connect Groups is where people learn how to embrace this mission. After 2 years, every person in your group should be actively making disciples. It doesn't mean they have to be perfect or even want to be a group leader. But they can begin to invest at least one person from their lives. This is the measure of success for Connect Groups.

## **Connect Group Coaches**

Each group leader will have a coach. This coach's responsibility is to mentor you and help you in anyway possible. As a leader, it is important that someone is investing in your life, challenging

you, and caring for you. Please make it a priority to meet with your coach whenever they ask to meet. They will aim to meet with you, as much as the two of you decide is necessary. If questions or issues arise in your group, your coach is there to help.

## **1on1 Discipleship**

Hands down, 1on1 discipleship is the best way to help someone grow. Discipleship is not a routine. It is meeting people where they are and helping them get to where Jesus wants them to be. This is most effectively done in a 1on1 setting. As a group leader, 1on1 discipleship will be crucial. When you identify people within your group that desire to grow deeper. This is the next step. Meeting 1on1 with a person will allow you to dive in deeper, better meet them where they are, and help them grow more effectively. This handbook can also be used to guide your 1on1 discipleship meetings. Your coaches will model this 1on1 relationship for you. It is important that you make this a priority within your group. This 1on1 discipleship will be the key to raising up new leaders and taking you group to the next level.

# Introduction to Connect Group

## Meet and Greet

**Goal for Meet and Greet:** To build relationships and introduce everyone to the feel of a Connect Group.

**Meal:** Every group time will start off with some form of food and drink. For this week, I would have a meal to allow more time for people to interact and get to know one another. It is okay if you spend a little extra time eating the first week. It is a good way for people to build relationships and get to know each other.

**Share:** When everyone finishes the meal, gather everyone into a circle and ask two questions:

1. Go around the circle and allow each person to introduce themselves with 3 things: Name, Occupation, and an Interesting Fact.
2. What do you want to get out of this group?

\*This may seem a little light, but it will allow people to get comfortable with the format.

**End by explaining the layout of Connect Group so that they will know what to expect.**

**Make sure to discuss the following:**

- Decide on a location, time, and childcare arrangements that work for everyone.
- Let everyone know that group will last approximately 1.5 hours each time.
- Talk them through the format of groups and purpose for each component.
  - o Meal
  - o Share
  - o Discipleship Topic
  - o Option of Accountability
- Decide on a book of the bible to read together. (Assign 2-3 chapters to read for next week)

Finish by praying and allowing them to ask any questions that they may have.



## **PHASE 1: INTRODUCING YOUR GROUP TO REAL COMMUNITY**

Every group is made up of different types of people from different backgrounds. All of these people bring with them a different idea of what community is. For example, someone that grew up Catholic will think of community differently than a person that didn't grow up in church. In phase one, we want to focus on introducing the type of community that we see in the Bible.

# Session 1 - What is a Connect Group? Community

**Share:** During the share time you would likely have everyone introduce themselves again. Most people are bad with names. Then, use these two questions to help guide the share time:

1. How has everybody's week been?
2. How have you gotten to where you are now in your relationship with God?

You start it out. It is okay if this takes up the whole time. It's worth it. This will help people get to know each other better and become familiar with each other's stories. If it takes the whole time, just start the discipleship topic next week.

**Goal for Session 1:** Members will gain an understanding of true community and see that it requires commitment.

**Starter Question:** What is the closest-knit group of people that you have ever been affiliated with? What made that group so close?

**Scripture:** Acts 2:42-47 - Read this passage together and focus on what the disciples' community looked like. People in your group come from a variety of backgrounds and have many different understandings of community. Use this time to really focus in and unify the group on what God's desire is for community.

## Teaching/Questions:

1. What do you notice about this group of people?
2. What does it mean to be devoted to something?
3. To what were they (the disciples) devoted?
  - a. What does it look like to be devoted to God's Word?
  - b. What does it look like to be devoted to each other (fellowship)?
  - c. What does it look like to be devoted to remembering Christ (breaking of bread)? (Breaking of bread is a reference to the Lord's Supper (communion), which is a way for us to remember Christ.)
  - d. What does it look like to be devoted to prayer?

**Application Question:** What does this look like for us?

## Session 2 - What is a Connect Group? Growth

**Share:** During your second share time as a group, remind your members of the importance of sharing from their own relationship with God. People grow a lot from having to talk about their relationship with God aloud. Use these questions to guide your share time:

1. How has everybody's week been? How is your relationship with God?
2. What stuck out to you in the reading this week? (ex: John 1-3)
3. What challenged you from the message this past Sunday?

**Goal for Session 2:** Members will gain an understanding of spiritual growth and what it looks like within a Connect Group. (If you need to spend more than one week on any specific topic including this one, please feel free to do so.)

**Starter Question:** What does growth look like as a Christian?

**Scripture:** Colossians 1:9-14 – Read this passage with your group and be looking for what Paul prays for on behalf of the Colossians. When a group has Paul's heart for one another it undoubtedly overflows in growth. One of the greatest needs in our lives is to have other people that want us to pursue Jesus with all our hearts even when we don't.

**Teaching/Questions:** *Read Colossians 1:9-14 together and answer the following questions.*

1. What does Paul ask God for on behalf of his brothers and sisters in Colossae?  
5 Things: that they would be filled with the knowledge of God's will, that they would walk in a manner worthy of God, that God would strengthen them to endure with patience and joy, that their lives would be characterized by gratitude, that they would remember the Gospel.
2. What is God's will? How can we help each other be filled with knowledge of it?  
(1 Thess. 4:3)
3. What does it look like to live a life worthy of the Lord and seek to please Him in every way? (Col. 1:10)

4. When do we need patience and endurance? Why is how we embrace trials important?  
*(James 1:2-4)*
5. What creates gratitude in the life of a believer? *(Luke 17:11-19)*
6. Why is it important that we constantly remember the gospel? *(Galatians 3:1-14)*

**Application Question:** How does having people in my life that desire these things for me help me grow?

# Session 3 - What is a Connect Group? Care

**Share:** Hopefully by now, your group should be getting accustomed to starting off group by sharing. Work hard to create an environment where people feel comfortable to share honestly. Your honesty as the leader will set the tone for the whole group. Here are a few questions to help:

1. How has everybody's week been? How is your relationship with God?
2. What stuck out to you in the reading this week? (ex: John 7-9)
3. What challenged you from the message this past Sunday?

**Goal for Session 3:** Members will gain an understanding of care and what it looks like within a Connect Group.

**Starter Question:** Who in this world would you say cares for you the best? What do they do?

**Scripture:** Use "One Another Statements" on the next page. The Bible talks a lot on how believers should relate to one another. People see Jesus by the way we love one another. The next page lists all 59 statements in the New Testament that refers to our relationship with other believers. Examine these together and discuss how to apply them within your group.

**Teaching/Questions:** Read the "One Another Statements" and discuss the following questions.

1. Why do you think the Bible talks so much about our relationships with other believers?
2. Which of these statements do you think is the most important to a healthy small group? Why?
3. Which of these statements is the most difficult to apply? Why?
4. Which of these statements would mean the most for someone to do for you personally?

**Application Question:**

1. How can we strive towards applying these as a group?

# One Another Statements

1. Love One Another. (*John 13:34-35; John 15:12-13; John 15:17; Romans 13:8; 1 Thess 4:9; Hebrews 13:1; 1 Peter 2:2; 1 Peter 4:8; 1 John 3:11; 1 John 3:23; 1 John 4:7; 1 John 4:11-12; 2 John 1:5*)
2. Be devoted to one another. (*Romans 12:10*)
3. Honor one another. (*Romans 12:10; Philippians 2:3*)
4. Live in Harmony with one another. (*Romans 12:16; 1 Thess 5:13; 1 Peter 3:8*)
5. Stop passing judgment on one another. (*Romans 14:13*)
6. Accept one another. (*Romans 15:7*)
7. Instruct one another. (*Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16*)
8. Greet one another with a holy kiss. (*Romans 16:16; 1 Cor 16:20; 2 Cor 13:12; 1 Peter 5:14*)
9. Agree with one another. (*1 Corinthians 1:10*)
10. Wait for each other. (*1 Corinthians 11:33*)
11. Have equal concern for each other. (*1 Corinthians 12:25*)
12. Serve one another. (*Galatians 5:13*)
13. Do not provoke or envy one another. (*Galatians 5:26*)
14. Carry each other's burdens. (*Galatians 6:2*)
15. Bear with one another. (*Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13*)
16. Be compassionate to one another. (*Ephesians 4:32*)
17. Forgive one another. (*Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13*)
18. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, & spiritual songs. (*Ephesians 5:19*)
19. Submit to one another. (*Ephesians 5:21*)
20. Do not lie to each other. (*Colossians 3:9*)
21. Encourage one another. (*1 Thess 4:18; 1 Thess 5:11; Hebrews 3:13; Hebrews 10:25*)
22. Build up each other. (*1 Thess 5:11*)
23. Spur one another on toward love & good deeds. (*Hebrews 10:24*)
24. Do not give up meeting together. (*Hebrews 10:25*)
25. Do not slander one another. (*James 4:11*)
26. Offer hospitality to one another. (*1 Peter 4:9*)
27. Clothe yourself with humility toward one another. (*1 Peter 5:5*)
28. Be kind to one another. (*1 Thessalonians 5:15*)
29. Don't grumble against one another. (*James 5:9*)
30. Confess your sins to each other. (*James 5:16*)
31. Pray for each other. (*James 5:16*)

# Session 4 - What is a Connect Group?

## Mission

**Share:** Before you start the share time, it may be beneficial to remind your group of the purpose and importance of it. Many times our relationship with God can seem stale or stagnant. During these times, hearing what God is doing in another's life has the ability to motivate, encourage, and light a fire in us far more than anything else. Use these questions to guide you:

1. How has everybody's week been? How is your relationship with God?
2. What stuck out to you in the reading this week? (ex: John 10-12)
3. What challenged you from the message this past Sunday?

**Goal for Session 4:** Members will grow in their understanding of the mission of God and see the importance of helping one another embrace it in our everyday lives.

**Starter Question:** Who is the most driven person that you know? What characterizes them? (Draw out that driven people have a motivation, a purpose, and a goal.)

**Scripture:** Matthew 28:18-20 – Read this passage together and talk about the importance of Jesus' last command to us. Each of us were saved for a purpose. That purpose is to make disciples of all nations. Our growth, our joy, and our obedience to God are directly linked to us embracing this mission.

**Teaching/Questions:** Read Matthew 28:18-20 and discuss the following questions.

1. What is the mission of God?
2. What is a disciple?
3. What does it look like to make a disciple?
4. What is our biggest hesitation or insecurity when it comes to making disciples?

(Point out and talk about the 3 aspects: Go, Baptize, Teach to obey)

(Directly counter the idea that you have to be perfect to make disciples. Allowing people into your imperfect pursuit of God is the best way to make a disciple.)

**Application Question:** As a group, how can we embrace the mission of God together?

*\*If you discern that your group is going to struggle with commitment, it may be beneficial to read the letter found on the next page to your group.*

Dear Connect Group,

You have no clue how excited I am about each one of you being in this group. At Connection, we believe that real life change happens in Connect Groups and this one is no exception. Without a doubt, the one thing that had the biggest impact on my relationship with God was my first Connect Group. It was the first time in my life that I had ever experienced real people truly living out their faith and caring that I did the same. I want each of you to have that same experience.

Over the years, one thing that I have learned is that the biggest hindrance to a group is inconsistency and lack of commitment. Nothing will kill a group faster. It makes it impossible to build trust, form deep relationships, and help one another grow when the same people do not show up every week.

We live in a busy world. Look around the room. Each and every person in here has a lot going on: jobs, family, school, sports, etc. All of these things require our time and commitment. A Connect Group is no different. One of the crossroads that we come to often in our relationship with God is prioritizing. Sometimes we have to say no to good things so that we can say yes to God things.

Trust me when I say that it will be a weekly battle just to get here. Everything that can go wrong probably will. Satan is smart. He knows the potential impact that this could have on your life and for God's kingdom. From flat tires to childcare to class projects, know that obstacles are coming.

***So here is how I want to end this 4th week of Connect Group: I want each of you to take this week to pray about and consider committing to this Connect Group. By committing to this group, you are saying that you will attend every week and are committed to growing together, caring for one another, and embracing the mission of God together. By not committing, you are saying that you don't feel that you have the time, at this point, to devote yourself to helping this group become all that God wants it to be.***

Remember, my hope is for this group to be the best that it can possibly be. Truly, I want it to be "The Best Connect Group Ever." At some point during this week, please contact your group leader and let them know what your decision is concerning your commitment to this group.

Sincerely,  
Billy Shiver

# Select a Community Outreach

If Connection Church no longer existed, would our community miss us? We want the answer to this question to be a resounding yes! Our world is full of needs. There are countless opportunities and ways for us to reach out to those around us; we simply have to open our eyes. We have to train ourselves to see the world through a new perspective, “What can we do to serve those around us?” Here are just a few ideas that may help spark your creativity in reaching out to your community. Feel free to take these ideas and change them up to fit your group:

- Partner with a local non-profit to help them in anyway needed.
- Reach out to local teachers/counselors and ask if they have any needs (school supplies, clothes, food, etc) with underprivileged students.
- Hosting international students for dinner and a movie.
- Help restore an old house for a person in need.
- Send Care Packages to Military Soldiers
- Host a regular church service or party at a nursing home (offer worship, devotions, prayer, and fellowship)
- Fraternities/Sororities: Often these groups have a required number of community service hours to complete. Consider opening your outreach projects as an opportunity for them to get involved, thus creating a chance for your team to witness and share God’s love with those that volunteer.
- Sports teams: Serve free bottled water or free watermelon at their practices.
- Help college freshmen move into a dorm.
- Host a fun day for children with special needs and their families
- Deliver gift baskets to teachers in local schools.
- Host a “Block Party” with free food, games, music, etc. for under privileged families or foster children.
- Renovate a run down school in the area.
- Do a mass door-to-door grocery giveaway.
- Serve free coffee, energy drinks, and snacks to staff and those waiting in the emergency room.
- Deliver small gifts to patients and families in the children’s ward (toys, care packages, etc.) Or send superheroes, balloon twisters, magicians, etc. to visit with children and their families.
- Offer to go Christmas shopping for prison inmates who have children.



## **PHASE 2: BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION**

A strong foundation is vital for all believers. When the tough circumstances come and winds of this world blow, it is vital that we have built our lives on the Word of God. In Phase 2, focus on developing the foundation of each member of your group. These topics come from the book “Fundamental of the Faith” written by John MacArthur. If you have any questions or need more information on any specific topic, utilize your coach and/or the book.

# Session 5 – Fundamentals of Faith

## Introduction to the Bible

**Share:** By this time, you will have good idea about what your share time will consist of. If people are still shy about sharing, it may be a good idea to simply text your members individually before group and ask them if they would help get the share time going by sharing something. If you are in a couples group, try splitting up into guys and girls. The success of this time should be measured by the degree to which you know where each person in your group is in their relationship with God. It is important to be patient with people and work on creating an environment where people feel comfortable sharing. Use these questions to help:

1. How has everybody's week been? How is your relationship with God?
2. What stuck out to you in the reading this week? (ex: John 13-15)

**Goal for Session 5:** Members will grow in their understanding of the Bible and be equipped to introduce others to it.

**Starter Question:** What is one thing you wish someone would have told you about the Bible a long time ago?

**Scripture:** Use the Table of Contents in your Bible to walk through an overview of the Bible. As a Christian, it is helpful to know the overall layout of the Bible. This will help you read every book in the Bible and actually know what you are reading. Use the table of contents to divide the Bible into the sections below.

**Teaching Time:** Turn to Table of Contents and explain the type of books in the Bible by bracketing in the following 6 sections. (More explanations than questions this week.)

**Bracket in Genesis-Esther** – Explain how these books cover the history of God's people. You can read them like a history book.

**Bracket in Job-Song of Solomon** – Explain how these are the writings of God's people. Read them like a very wise person wrote down what they learned in their lifetime.

**Bracket in Isaiah-Malachi** – Explain how these are the prophets. Prophets were people who spoke on behalf of God during the historical time of Genesis-Esther. They are great to study along with the historical books.

**Bracket in Matthew-Acts** – Explain how these are the history books of New Testament. You can read them like a history book.

**Bracket in Romans-Jude** – Explain how these are letters written by specific people to a specific audience. When you read them it's great to know the relationship between the author and audience.

**Bracket in Revelation** – Explain how it's in its own category. It is a vision from God to John. Basically, John is writing down what God revealed to Him about His future return.

**Application Question:** How does understanding this help you as you more effectively read Scripture?

# Session 6 – Fundamentals of Faith

## How to Know the Bible

**Share:** Before you start the share time, it can be beneficial to remind your group of the importance of it. There is nothing that helps us grow and lights a fire in us quite like hearing what the Lord is doing in someone's life. Work hard to create a comfortable environment for people to talk. It is why God designed us to walk through life in community. If you are in a couples group, try splitting up into guys and girls. The success of this time should be measured by the degree to which you know where each person in your group is in their relationship with God. Start off your group with these questions:

1. How has everybody's week been? How is your relationship with God?
2. What has God been showing you that can encourage the rest of the group?
3. What stuck out to you in the reading this week? (ex: John 16-18)

**Goal for Session 6:** Members will grow in their understanding of how to practically study the Bible. (If you need to spend more than one week on any specific topic including this one, please feel free to do so.)

**Starter Question:** When it comes to studying the Bible, what is the most helpful insight or thing that you have learned?

**Scriptures:** *Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:16; John 5:39-40* Pick out a book of the Bible and bring them into how you would begin studying it. For example, using your study Bible to look at the background of the book, talking through how the Lord speaks to you through His Word. Take some time to learn from each other on effective ways to study the Bible for transformation.

**Teaching/Questions:** What is the point of studying the Bible? Why is it important for us to know God's Word?

**Application:** Walk them through how you study the Bible. This will be the most important thing you do! Pick out a passage, walk them through and allow them to see what your time with God looks like on a daily basis.

# Session 7 – Fundamentals of Faith

## God: His Character & Attributes

**Share:** This time is designed for everyone to share about what God is teaching them personally. If these questions are resulting in awkward silence, it is probably a good indication that your members are not pursuing God outside of group. Community only happens when there is partnership in the gospel. Partnership requires more than one person! Keep working hard to help everyone feel comfortable to share. Here is a few questions to help guide this time.

1. How has everybody's week been? How is your relationship with God?
2. What stuck out to you in the reading this week? (ex: John 19-21)

**Goal for Session 7:** Members will gain a better understanding of the full character of God and learn how this helps us trust him more.

**Starter Questions:** How does truly knowing someone and their character help you trust them more? When you think of who God is, what attributes come to mind?

**Scriptures:** Use the Scriptures below to discuss the different attributes of God's character that we see throughout all of Scripture. This is not an exhaustive list of attributes.

**Teaching/Application Questions:** Discuss through the following attributes of God and how these attributes help us trust God more.

**God is Holy** (*Psalm 99:9*) – What does it mean that God is Holy? How does this attribute help you trust?

**God is Righteous and Just** (*Psalm 89:14*) – What does it mean that God is righteous and just? How does this attribute help you trust God?

**God is Sovereign** (*Isaiah 46:9-10*) – What does it mean that God is sovereign? How does this attribute help you trust God?

**God is Eternal** (*Isaiah 43:13*) – What does it mean that God is eternal? How does this attribute help you trust God?

**God is Immutable** (*Malachi 3:6*) – What does it mean that God is immutable? How does this attribute help you trust God?

**God is Omniscient** (*Psalm 139:1-6*) – What does it mean that God is omniscient? How does this attribute help you trust God?

**God is Omnipresent** (*Psalm 139:7-12*) – What does it mean that God is omnipresent? How does this attribute help you trust God?

**God is Omnipotent** (*Jeremiah 32:17*) – What does it mean that God is omnipotent? How does this attribute help you trust God?

**God is Love** (*Romans 5:8*) – What does it mean that God is love? How does this attribute help you trust God?

**God is Truth** (*John 14:6*) – What does it mean that God is truth? How does this attribute help you trust God?

**God is Merciful** (*Psalm 145:8-9*) – What does it mean that God is merciful? How does this attribute help you trust God?

# Session 8 – Fundamentals of Faith

## The Person of Jesus

**Share:** This time is designed to help your group walk through life together by sharing from their own relationship with God. By this time, you should have a good understanding of what this time will look like for your group. Remember the purpose is to create an environment where people feel comfortable sharing about what God is doing in their lives. The success of this time should be measured by the degree to which you know where each person in your group is in their relationship with God. If you are in a couples group, it can be beneficial to split up into guys and girls. Use these questions to help:

1. How has everybody's week been? How is your relationship with God?
2. What stuck out to you in the reading this week? (ex: Acts 1-2)

**Goal for Session 8:** Members will grow in their understanding of who Jesus is and be equipped to be more like him.

**Starter Questions:** If someone asked you the question, "Who is Jesus?" How would you respond? How has your view of who Jesus is changed/deepened since you became a believer? Why is it important that we know who Jesus said that He was?

**Scriptures:** Use the "I AM" statements from the book of John to look at who Jesus is.

**Teaching/Questions:** In your opinion, what Scripture best defines who Jesus is?

Read through the following Scriptures and discuss the claims Jesus made about himself.

John 6:35 – What does it mean that Jesus is the "Bread of Life?"

John 8:12 – What does it mean that Jesus is the "Light of the World?"

John 10:7 – What does it mean that Jesus is the "Door of the Sheep?"

John 10:11 – What does it mean that Jesus is the "Good Shepherd?"

John 11:25 – What does it mean that Jesus is the "Resurrection and the Life?"

John 14:6 – What does it mean that Jesus is "The Way, The Truth, and The Life?"

John 15:1 – What does it mean that Jesus is the "The Vine?"

**Application:** How does understanding the claims that Jesus made about himself change your view of Him?

# Session 9 – Choose Your Topic

**Share:** This time is designed to help your group walk through life together by sharing from their own relationship with God. By this time, you should have a good understanding of what this time will look like for your group. Remember the purpose is to create an environment where people feel comfortable sharing about what God is doing in their lives. The success of this time should be measured by the degree to which you know where each person in your group is in their relationship with God. If you are in a couples group, it can be beneficial to split up into guys and girls. Use these questions to help:

1. How has everybody's week been? How is your relationship with God?
2. What stuck out to you in the reading this week? (ex: Acts 3-4)

**Choose your Topic:** You know your group better than anyone else. Think about what your group members needs to hear, the questions they have, and what they are walking through in life. Then, choose a topic that you feel would be best to discuss. Craft the discussion using three easy principles: Figure out where they are with the specific topic, discuss what the Bible says about it, and then how it can be practically applied to our lives. Here are a few topics to help if needed:

- Worry/Anxiety
- Spiritual Warfare
- Relationships/Marriage/Singleness
- Confession
- Parenting
- Assurance of Salvation
- Handling Cultural Issues
- Anger/Bitterness
- Cultural Christianity
- Identity/Worthiness
- Jesus in the Workplace
- Grief/Depression
- Biblical Men/Woman
- Homosexuality/Pornography
- Addiction
- Condemnation
- Forgiveness
- Heaven/Hell
- Alcohol
- Tough Questions
- Divorce

## Crafting The Discussion

**Starter Question:** What does your group already know about the topic?

**Teaching Question:** What does Scripture say about this topic?

**Application Question:** How can we apply what Scripture says to our lives?

# Session 10 – Fundamentals of Faith

## The Work of Christ

**Share:** This time is designed to help your group walk through life together by sharing from their own relationship with God. By this time, you should have a good understanding of what this time will look like for your group. Remember the purpose is to create an environment where people feel comfortable sharing about what God is doing in their lives. Use these questions to help:

1. How has everybody's week been? How is your relationship with God?
2. What stuck out to you in the reading this week? (ex: Acts 5-6)

**Goal for Session 10:** Members will grow in their understanding of Jesus' work on the cross by exploring three things: the depth of our sin, our desperate need for a Savior, and Christ's sufficient work.

**Starter Question:** How has your knowledge of what happened on the cross changed since you first began following Jesus?

**Scriptures:** Use the Scriptures below to dig into the importance of the cross in our lives. The meaning and importance of the cross grows when we understand the depth of our sin, our desperate need for a Savior, and sufficiency of what Christ accomplished on the cross.

### Teaching/Questions:

Use the Scriptures and questions below to dive into the cross of Christ.

1. The Depth of our Sin
  - a. Read John 8:34 - What does it mean that we are slaves to sin?
  - b. Read Ephesians 2:1-3 – What is God's view of who we are in our sin? Why do we try to belittle our sin?
  - c. Why is it important to be honest with ourselves about who we truly are before we can truly understand salvation
2. Our Need for a Savior
  - a. Read Genesis 6:5 & Ezekiel 36:25-27 - Before Christ, why is sin who we are and not just something that we do?
  - b. Why is Christ our only hope for salvation?

### 3. Christ's work on the Cross

a. What do we learn about the cross from the verses below?

i. Isaiah 53:5-6

ii. Romans 5:6-11

iii. 2 Corinthians 5:21

iv. Galatians 1:4

v. Ephesians 1:7

Application Questions: How does understanding the depth of what Christ has done for you change you?

## **Connect Group Hangout**

Be as creative as you want to be. This can be anything from a BBQ, Movie Night, Bowling, Laser Tag, bonfire, Christmas Party, etc. The goal is to have some fun together and just enjoy being in each other's company. This can be a great way to build deeper relationships and invite new people into your Connect Group in a low-pressure environment as well.

## **More Connect Group Resources**

You may find that your group could benefit from using resources that cover material not included in this handbook. Your coach can provide you with external resources (DVD and leader guide) to further emphasize and address topics like discipleship, marriage, and parenting. Please spend no more than 4 weeks on these external topics. Please contact your coach for further information.

# Session 11 – Fundamentals of Faith

## Salvation

**Share:** This time is designed to help your group walk through life together by sharing from their own relationship with God. By this time, you should have a good understanding of what this time will look like for your group. Remember the purpose is to create an environment where people feel comfortable sharing about what God is doing in their lives. The success of this time should be measured by the degree to which you know where each person in your group is in their relationship with God. If you're in a couples group, it can be helpful to split up into guys and girls.

**Goal for Session 11:** Members will grow in their understanding of salvation by looking at 3 things: God's sovereignty in salvation, conversion and its evidences, and the assurance of true salvation.

**Starter Question:** In our society today, what are the biggest misconceptions about salvation?

**Teaching/Questions:** Use the Scriptures and questions below to discuss salvation:

### 1. God's Sovereignty in Salvation

- a. Read Ephesians 1:3-5; John 6:44,65. How does God's sovereignty play out in salvation?
- b. Read Ephesians 2:1-3; 2 Corinthians 4:4-6. What is man's spiritual condition before salvation? Why does this condition require help outside of ourselves?
- c. Read Ephesians 2:8. Why is it important to understand that salvation is a work of God and not our own work?

### 2. Conversion and its evidences:

- a. Read Acts 2:37-38; Romans 10:9-10. What is man's responsibility in salvation? What is repentance? What is faith?
- b. Read Romans 6:17-18; John 8:31-32; James 2:14-26. What are the evidences of true conversion?

### 3. Assurance of Salvation (Ask yourself 3 questions)

- a. Right now, are you resting the weight of your soul on Christ's finished work on the cross?
- b. Do I have a desire to know God and be a part of his mission?
- c. Do people around me see the fruit of the Spirit in my life?

**Application Question:** How can understanding salvation equip us to share with others more effectively?

# **Session 12 – Fundamentals of Faith**

## **The Person and Ministry of the Holy Spirit**

**Share:** This time is designed to help your group walk through life together by sharing from their own relationship with God. By this time, you should have a good understanding of what this time will look like for your group. Remember the purpose is to create an environment where people feel comfortable sharing about what God is doing in their lives. The success of this time should be measured by the degree to which you know where each person in your group is in their relationship with God. If you are in a couples group, it can be beneficial to split up into guys and girls. Use these questions to help:

1. How has everybody's week been? How is your relationship with God?
2. What stuck out to you in the reading this week? (ex: Acts 9-10)

**Goal for Session 12:** Members will more fully understand the Holy Spirit and become more dependent on Him in their daily lives.

**Starter Questions:** How has your understanding of the Holy Spirit grown since you became a believer? Who or what has shaped your view of the Holy Spirit the most?

**Scriptures:** Use the Scriptures below to dive into a deeper understanding of the Holy Spirit.

**Teaching/Questions:** Use the Scriptures and questions below to discuss salvation:

1. Read John 16:7. Why did Christ say it was better that He send us the Holy Spirit?
2. Read Titus 3:3-6. What role does the Holy Spirit play in salvation?
3. Read John 15:1-17. How do I know if I have been filled with the Spirit?
4. Read Romans 8:1-11. What is the importance of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer?
5. Read Galatians 5:16-24. How do I know that I am walking by the Spirit?

**Application Questions:** What is the biggest hindrance in my life when it comes to walking by the Spirit? How can I become more dependent on the Holy Spirit in my everyday life?

# Session 13 – Fundamentals of Faith

## Prayer

**Share:** This time is designed to help your group walk through life together by sharing from their own relationship with God. By this time, you should have a good understanding of what this time will look like for your group. Remember the purpose is to create an environment where people feel comfortable sharing about what God is doing in their lives. The success of this time should be measured by the degree to which you know where each person in your group is in their relationship with God. If you are in a couples group, it can be beneficial to split up into guys and girls. Use these questions to help:

1. How has everybody's week been? How is your relationship with God?
2. What stuck out to you in the reading this week? (ex: Acts 11-12)

**Goal for Session 13:** Members will grow in their understanding of prayer, its purpose, and how to become more dependent on it in their daily lives.

**Starter Questions:** What have you learned about prayer since you began following the Lord? Why is prayer a big deal in the life of a believer?

**Teaching/Questions:** Read the following Scriptures and discuss the questions below:

1. What is the purpose of prayer? What are God's promises when it comes to prayer?
  - a. Read John 14:13-14; Philippians 4:6-7; 1 Peter 5:6-7; James 5:16-18; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17.
2. How did Jesus teach us to pray?
  - a. Read Matthew 6:5-15; Use A.C.T.S. acrostic found in Fundamentals of the Faith Workbook.
3. What has the power to hinder our prayers?
  - a. Read Psalm 66:18; James 4:3; James 1:5-8; John 15:7; Isaiah 59:1-2; Proverbs 21:13; 1 Peter 3:7

**Application Questions:** What is your personal next step when it comes to your prayer life? How can this Connect Group help each other when it comes to prayer?

# Session 14 – Fundamentals of Faith

## The Church: Fellowship and Worship

**Share:** This time is designed to help your group walk through life together by sharing from their own relationship with God. By this time, you should have a good understanding of what this time will look like for your group. Remember the purpose is to create an environment where people feel comfortable sharing about what God is doing in their lives. The success of this time should be measured by the degree to which you know where each person in your group is in their relationship with God. If you are in a couples group, it can be beneficial to split up into guys and girls. Use these questions to help:

1. How has everybody's week been? How is your relationship with God?
2. What stuck out to you in the reading this week? (ex: Acts 13-14)

**Goal for Session 14:** Members will grow in their understanding of the church, its purpose, and every person plays a part in it.

**Starter Questions:** What are the biggest misconceptions about the church in our culture today? How has your experience with church been good and bad?

**Scriptures:** Use the Scriptures below to dive into a deeper understanding of the church.

**Teaching/Questions:** Read the following Scriptures and discuss the questions below:

1. What is the church?
  - a. Read Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 2:9-10
2. What is God's purpose and mission for the church?
  - a. Read Ephesians 4:11-12; Matthew 28:18-20
3. How did God design the church to function?
  - a. Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-27; Romans 12:3-8

**Application Questions:** What is your next step in being a part of what God is doing at Connection Church?

# Session 15 – Choose Your Topic

**Share:** This time is designed to help your group walk through life together by sharing from their own relationship with God. By this time, you should have a good understanding of what this time will look like for your group. Remember the purpose is to create an environment where people feel comfortable sharing about what God is doing in their lives. Use these questions to help:

1. How has everybody's week been? How is your relationship with God?
2. What stuck out to you in the reading this week? (ex: Acts 15-16)

**Choose your Topic:** You know your group better than anyone else. Think about what your group members needs to hear, the questions they have, and what they are walking through in life. Then, choose a topic that you feel would be best to discuss. Craft the discussion using three easy principles: Figure out where they are with the specific topic, discuss what the Bible says about it, and then how it can be practically applied to our lives. Here are a few topics to help if needed:

- Worry/Anxiety
- Spiritual Warfare
- Relationships/Marriage/Singleness
- Confession
- Parenting
- Assurance of Salvation
- Handling Cultural Issues
- Anger/Bitterness
- Cultural Christianity
- Identity/Worthiness
- Jesus in the Workplace
- Grief/Depression
- Biblical Men/Woman
- Homosexuality/Pornography
- Addiction
- Condemnation
- Forgiveness
- Heaven/Hell
- Alcohol
- Tough Questions
- Divorce

## Crafting The Discussion

**Starter Question:** What does your group already know about the topic?

**Teaching Question:** What does Scripture say about this topic?

**Application Question:** How can we apply what Scripture says to our lives?

# Session 16 – Fundamentals of Faith

## Spiritual Gifts

**Share:** This time is designed to help your group walk through life together by sharing from their own relationship with God. By this time, you should have a good understanding of what this time will look like for your group. Remember the purpose is to create an environment where people feel comfortable sharing about what God is doing in their lives. The success of this time should be measured by the degree to which you know where each person in your group is in their relationship with God. Use these questions to help:

1. How has everybody's week been? How is your relationship with God?
2. What stuck out to you in the reading this week? (ex: Acts 17-18)

**Goal for Session 16:** Members will grow in their understanding of spiritual gifts, their purpose, and how they can utilize their spiritual gift in the church.

**Starter Question:** What do you think when you hear the term “spiritual gifts?”

**Scriptures:** Use the Scriptures below to dive into a deeper understanding of spiritual gifts.

**Teaching/Questions:** Read the following Scriptures and discuss the questions below:

1. Where do spiritual gifts come from? Who has them? How are they distributed?
  - a. Read 1 Corinthians 12:11; 1 Peter 4:10; Romans 12:6
2. What is God's purpose for spiritual gifts?
  - a. Read Romans 1:11-12; 1 Peter 4:10-11
3. What spiritual gifts are referred to in the Bible?
  - a. Read Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10; 1 Corinthians 12:28b
4. Print off the spiritual gift assessment found on the Connect Group Leader website and have each member complete it.
  - a. After completion talk about what each gift means. Discuss each person's top 3 gifts.

**Application Question:** How can you utilize your spiritual gifts to build up other believers within in the church?

# Session 17 – Fundamentals of Faith Evangelism

**Share:** This time is designed to help your group walk through life together by sharing from their own relationship with God. By this time, you should have a good understanding of what this time will look like for your group. Remember the purpose is to create an environment where people feel comfortable sharing about what God is doing in their lives. The success of this time should be measured by the degree to which you know where each person in your group is in their relationship with God. Use these questions to help:

1. How has everybody's week been? How is your relationship with God?
2. What stuck out to you in the reading this week? (ex: Acts 19-20)

**Goal for Session 17:** Members will grow in their understanding of evangelism and be better equipped to share their story with others.

**Starter Questions:** What is the most helpful advice you've ever received or the biggest thing you've learned when it comes to sharing Christ with others? How can sharing your personal story be helpful when it comes to evangelism?

**Scriptures:** Use rest of your time to talk about how to share your testimony.

## Teaching Questions:

1. What role does the Holy Spirit play in evangelism?
2. Talk through some helpful tips when it comes to sharing your story:
  - a. Who I was before Christ.
  - b. How I met Christ.
  - c. What my life looks like now.
3. What's your biggest fear when it comes to evangelism?

**Application Question:** Who is one person in your life that you can share your story with this week?

# Session 18 – Fundamentals of Faith

## Obedience

**Share:** This time is designed to help your group walk through life together by sharing from their own relationship with God. By this time, you should have a good understanding of what this time will look like for your group. Remember the purpose is to create an environment where people feel comfortable sharing about what God is doing in their lives. The success of this time should be measured by the degree to which you know where each person in your group is in their relationship with God. Use these questions to help:

1. How has everybody's week been? How is your relationship with God?
2. What stuck out to you in the reading this week? (ex: Acts 21-22)

**Goal for Session 18:** Members will grow in their understanding of obedience and how it is central to a growing relationship with Christ.

**Starter Questions:** Who in your life has been the best example of obedience to God? Why? What is the biggest thing that you've learned about obedience since becoming a believer?

**Scriptures:** Use the Scriptures and questions below to dive into a deeper understanding of obedience.

### Teaching Questions:

1. What is obedience and why is it important in the life of believer?
  - a. Read John 14:15-31; Luke 9:23-27; 1 Peter 1:14-16; James 1:22-25; Romans 12:1-2
2. What is the difference between obedience that flows from the heart versus obedience as a list of rules?
  - a. Read Romans 6:15-23
3. Reading John 3:35, why are the words "belief" and "obey" interchangeable?
4. Is it possible to be a Christian and not walk in obedience? Explain?
  - a. Read 1 John 3:9-10 (Hint: answer is yes and no.)
5. In your life, what has been the toughest time for you to be obedient to God?
6. How does walking in obedience lead to growth in our relationship with God?

**Application Question:** How can this group help each other walk in obedience?

# Session 19 – Fundamentals of Faith

## God's Will and Guidance

**Share:** This time is designed to help your group walk through life together by sharing from their own relationship with God. By this time, you should have a good understanding of what this time will look like for your group. Remember the purpose is to create an environment where people feel comfortable sharing about what God is doing in their lives. The success of this time should be measured by the degree to which you know where each person in your group is in their relationship with God. Use these questions to help:

1. How has everybody's week been? How is your relationship with God?
2. What stuck out to you in the reading this week? (ex: Acts 23-24)

**Goal for Session 19:** Members will grow in their understanding of God's will and how they can discern it in their own lives.

**Starter Questions:** How has your understanding of God's will grown since you began following the Lord? What is the most helpful thing you've learned when it comes to discerning God's will in your own life?

### Teaching Questions:

1. Read each of the following verses. How can God's will be seen in each verse? (not an exhaustive list)
  - a. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8
  - b. 2 Corinthians 6:14
  - c. Mark 12:30-31
  - d. Romans 8:28
  - e. Jeremiah 29:11-13
  - f. Proverbs 3:5-6
  - g. Matthew 28:18-20
2. What is the difference between God's commanded will and God's sovereign will?
  - a. CW – God's commanded will is revealed throughout the Bible as laws, commands, or principles.
  - b. SW – God's sovereign will involves his control over all things and all situations.
3. What are some different ways that we can discern God's will in our lives?
  - a. Bible, Godly Counsel, Prayer, Scripture Teaching, Conviction, etc.

**Application Question:** How can we help one another discern God's will and live it out?

# Session 20 – Choose Your Topic

**Share:** This time is designed to help your group walk through life together by sharing from their own relationship with God. By this time, you should have a good understanding of what this time will look like for your group. Remember the purpose is to create an environment where people feel comfortable sharing about what God is doing in their lives. The success of this time should be measured by the degree to which you know where each person in your group is in their relationship with God. Use these questions to help:

1. How has everybody's week been? How is your relationship with God?
2. What stuck out to you in the reading this week? (ex: Acts 25-26)

**Choose your Topic:** You know your group better than anyone else. Think about what your group members needs to hear, the questions they have, and what they are walking through in life. Then, choose a topic that you feel would be best to discuss. Craft the discussion using three easy principles: Figure out where they are with the specific topic, discuss what the Bible says about it, and then how it can be practically applied to our lives. Here are a few topics to help if needed:

- Worry/Anxiety
- Spiritual Warfare
- Relationships/Marriage/Singleness
- Confession
- Parenting
- Assurance of Salvation
- Handling Cultural Issues
- Anger/Bitterness
- Cultural Christianity
- Identity/Worthiness
- Jesus in the Workplace
- Grief/Depression
- Biblical Men/Woman
- Homosexuality/Pornography
- Addiction
- Condemnation
- Forgiveness
- Heaven/Hell
- Alcohol
- Tough Questions
- Divorce

## Crafting The Discussion

**Starter Question:** What does your group already know about the topic?

**Teaching Question:** What does Scripture say about this topic?

**Application Question:** How can we apply what Scripture says to our lives?



## **PHASE 3: MOBILIZING YOUR GROUP TO MAKE DISCIPLES**

Jesus' last command was to go and make disciples of all nations. This command is His purpose for all believers. Thus, it is our goal for every person within a Connect Group. In phase 3, focus on mobilizing each person in your group to make disciples. Every person may not be eventually become a Connect Group leader. However, every person has at least one person in their life that they can begin to minister to. These topics come from the book "Multiply" written by Francis Chan. If you have any questions or need more information any specific topic, utilize your coach and/or the book.

# Session 21– Multiply

## Living as a disciple maker: What is a disciple?

**Share:** This time is designed to help your group walk through life together by sharing from their own relationship with God. By this time, you should have a good understanding of what this time will look like for your group. Remember the purpose is to create an environment where people feel comfortable sharing about what God is doing in their lives. The success of this time should be measured by the degree to which you know where each person in your group is in their relationship with God. Use these questions to help:

1. How has everybody's week been? How is your relationship with God?
2. What stuck out to you in the reading this week? (ex: Acts 27-28)

**Goal for Session 21:** Members will grow in their understanding of what it means to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

**Starter Questions:** How would you describe what a true disciple of Jesus looks like? What is the difference between a “Christian” in our culture and a disciple of Jesus?

**Scripture:** Use the Scriptures and questions below to discuss what it means to live as a disciple.

### Teaching Questions:

1. What can we learn about being a disciple from the following verses?
  - a. Matthew 4:19 (A disciple's goal)
  - b. John 8:31-32 (Evidence of a true disciple)
  - c. Luke 6:40 (Evidence of a true disciple)
  - d. John 13:34-35 (Fruit of a disciple)
  - e. Matthew 22:37-40 (Life of a disciple)
  - f. Luke 14:25-33 (Counting the cost)
2. Looking back at your life, when would you say you became a true disciple of Jesus? Explain.

**Application Question:** How can we help one another grow as disciples of Jesus?

## **Connect Group Hangout**

Be as creative as you want to be. This can be anything from a BBQ, Movie Night, Bowling, Laser Tag, bonfire, Christmas Party, etc. The goal is to have some fun together and just enjoy being in each other's company. This can be a great way to build deeper relationships and invite new people into your Connect Group in a low-pressure environment as well.

## **More Connect Group Resources**

You may find that your group could benefit from using resources that cover material not included in this handbook. Your coach can provide you with external resources (DVD and leader guide) to further emphasize and address topics like discipleship, marriage, and parenting. Please spend no more than 4 weeks on these external topics. Please contact your coach for further information.

# Session 22– Multiply

## Living as a disciple maker: The Command to Make Disciples

**Share:** This time is designed to help your group walk through life together by sharing from their own relationship with God. By this time, you should have a good understanding of what this time will look like for your group. Remember the purpose is to create an environment where people feel comfortable sharing about what God is doing in their lives. The success of this time should be measured by the degree to which you know where each person in your group is in their relationship with God. Use these questions to help:

1. How has everybody's week been? How is your relationship with God?
2. What stuck out to you in the reading this week? (ex: Romans 1-2)

**Goal for Topic 22:** Members will grow in their understanding of what it means to make disciples of all nations.

**Starter Questions:** What have you learned about making disciples since you began following the Lord? When it comes to making disciples, what is your biggest fear? (Directly combat the idea that you have to be perfect.)

**Scripture:** Read Matthew 28

### Teaching Questions:

1. If this is the last command that Christ left for us to do, why do you think we so often miss it?
2. In Matthew 28:18-20, what are the 3 parts of disciple making? Discuss what each look like for us practically.
  - a. "Go" – targeting people, loving and investing in them, building relationships, praying for them, sharing the gospel
  - b. "Baptize" – doing whatever it takes to get people to Jesus (great example: Mark 2:1-12)
  - c. "Teach to Obey" – studying the Bible together, accountability, teaching people what God has taught you, helping others embrace great commission.

**Application Questions:** What excuses tend to keep you from following Jesus' command to make disciples? What do you need to do in order to move past these excuses? Who has God placed in your life right now that you can begin making into a disciple of Jesus?

# Session 23– Multiply

## Living as a disciple maker: The Heart of a Disciple Maker

**Share:** This time is designed to help your group walk through life together by sharing from their own relationship with God. By this time, you should have a good understanding of what this time will look like for your group. Remember the purpose is to create an environment where people feel comfortable sharing about what God is doing in their lives. The success of this time should be measured by the degree to which you know where each person in your group is in their relationship with God. Use these questions to help:

1. How has everybody's week been? How is your relationship with God?
2. What stuck out to you in the reading this week? (ex: Romans 3-4)

**Goal for Session 23:** Members will learn more about the heart and motivation behind an obedient disciple maker.

**Starter Question:** When you think of someone that has loved you unconditionally, who comes to mind and why?

**Scripture:** Use the Scriptures and questions below to discuss the heart of disciple making.

### Teaching Questions:

1. Why is God concerned with our heart and motivation when it comes to making disciples?
  - a. Read 1 Samuel 16:7 and Matthew 15:8-9
2. What are some examples of wrong motives when it comes to making disciples?
3. What does it look like when loving God and loving others is our highest priority in disciple making?
  - a. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:8 and 1 Corinthians 13:1-3
4. How can we recognize when love is at the forefront of our disciple making?
5. How can we recognize when love is not at the forefront of our disciple making?

**Application Questions:** Up to this point, would you say that your desire to make disciples has been motivated by love? Why or why not? Think back to the opening question. Who has God placed in your life right now that you can love unconditionally as that person loved you? What's your next step in order to help that person become a disciple?

# Session 24– Multiply

## Living as the Church: Life in the Church

**Share:** This time is designed to help your group walk through life together by sharing from their own relationship with God. By this time, you should have a good understanding of what this time will look like for your group. Remember the purpose is to create an environment where people feel comfortable sharing about what God is doing in their lives. The success of this time should be measured by the degree to which you know where each person in your group is in their relationship with God. Use these questions to help:

1. How has everybody's week been? How is your relationship with God?
2. What stuck out to you in the reading this week? (ex: Romans 5-6)

**Goal for Session 24:** Members will learn more about the church and why they should be committed to helping it become all that God desires it to be.

**Starter Question:** Throughout your lifetime, how would you describe your church experience?

### Teaching Questions:

1. What is an accurate definition of the church?
  - a. Read Acts 2:42-47
2. Why is it important that we have an accurate view of what the church is?
3. Looking at Ephesians 4:1-16, discuss the following questions:
  - a. How should this passage affect the way you view your responsibility to other Christians in the church?
  - b. Why does the church exist? What is God's purpose for the church?
  - c. When each part of the church is working properly, what is the result?

**Application Question:** Up to this point in your life, would you say that you have been playing your part in the body of Christ?

- a. If yes, how might you still need to grow in this?
- b. If no, what is your next step?

(Common Next Steps: Heart & Soul, Serving, Giving, Consistently Attending a group, Leading a group, inviting someone to attend, reading your bible more consistently, etc.)

# Session 25– Multiply

## Living as the Church: The Local Church

**Share:** This time is designed to help your group walk through life together by sharing from their own relationship with God. By this time, you should have a good understanding of what this time will look like for your group. Remember the purpose is to create an environment where people feel comfortable sharing about what God is doing in their lives. The success of this time should be measured by the degree to which you know where each person in your group is in their relationship with God. Use these questions to help:

1. How has everybody's week been? How is your relationship with God?
2. What stuck out to you in the reading this week? (ex: Romans 7-8)

**Goal for Session 25:** Members will learn more about how the local church can tangibly represent Jesus to the community around it.

**Starter Questions:** In your opinion, what is the most effective way for people to see Jesus in and through the local church? What is one way that your Connect Group has helped you experience the love of Christ?

**Scripture:** Looking at 1 Peter 2:4-12, discuss the following questions:

### Teaching Questions:

1. What can we learn about God's plan for the church?
  - a. Read verses 4-5
2. Why does Peter focus on who we are before telling us our purpose as the church?
  - a. Read verses 9-10
3. What is our purpose as the church?
  - a. Read verses 9b
4. Why is the way we live our lives important?
  - a. Read verses 11-12

**Application Question:** As a Connect Group, what can we do to take the love of Jesus to people in our community that need it?

# Session 5 – Fundamentals of Faith

## Introduction to the Bible

**Share:** By this time, you will have good idea about what your share time will consist of. If people are still shy about sharing, it may be a good idea to simply text your members individually before group and ask them if they would help get the share time going by sharing something. If you are in a couples group, try splitting up into guys and girls. The success of this time should be measured by the degree to which you know where each person in your group is in their relationship with God. It is important to be patient with people and work on creating an environment where people feel comfortable sharing. Use these questions to help:

1. How has everybody's week been? How is your relationship with God?
2. What stuck out to you in the reading this week? (ex: John 13-15)

**Goal for Session 5:** Members will grow in their understanding of the Bible and be equipped to introduce others to it.

**Starter Question:** What is one thing you wish someone would have told you about the Bible a long time ago?

**Scripture:** Use the Table of Contents in your Bible to walk through an overview of the Bible. As a Christian, it is helpful to know the overall layout of the Bible. This will help you read every book in the Bible and actually know what you are reading. Use the table of contents to divide the Bible into the sections below.

**Teaching Time:** Turn to Table of Contents and explain the type of books in the Bible by bracketing in the following 6 sections. (More explanations than questions this week.)

**Bracket in Genesis-Esther** – Explain how these books cover the history of God's people. You can read them like a history book.

**Bracket in Job-Song of Solomon** – Explain how these are the writings of God's people. Read them like a very wise person wrote down what they learned in their lifetime.

**Bracket in Isaiah-Malachi** – Explain how these are the prophets. Prophets were people who spoke on behalf of God during the historical time of Genesis-Esther. They are great to study along with the historical books.

**Bracket in Matthew-Acts** – Explain how these are the history books of New Testament. You can read them like a history book.

**Bracket in Romans-Jude** – Explain how these are letters written by specific people to a specific audience. When you read them it's great to know the relationship between the author and audience.

**Bracket in Revelation** – Explain how it's in its own category. It is a vision from God to John. Basically, John is writing down what God revealed to Him about His future return.

**Application Question:** How does understanding this help you as you more effectively read Scripture?

# Session 5 – Fundamentals of Faith

## Introduction to the Bible

**Share:** By this time, you will have good idea about what your share time will consist of. If people are still shy about sharing, it may be a good idea to simply text your members individually before group and ask them if they would help get the share time going by sharing something. If you are in a couples group, try splitting up into guys and girls. The success of this time should be measured by the degree to which you know where each person in your group is in their relationship with God. It is important to be patient with people and work on creating an environment where people feel comfortable sharing. Use these questions to help:

1. How has everybody's week been? How is your relationship with God?
2. What stuck out to you in the reading this week? (ex: John 13-15)

**Goal for Session 5:** Members will grow in their understanding of the Bible and be equipped to introduce others to it.

**Starter Question:** What is one thing you wish someone would have told you about the Bible a long time ago?

**Scripture:** Use the Table of Contents in your Bible to walk through an overview of the Bible. As a Christian, it is helpful to know the overall layout of the Bible. This will help you read every book in the Bible and actually know what you are reading. Use the table of contents to divide the Bible into the sections below.

**Teaching Time:** Turn to Table of Contents and explain the type of books in the Bible by bracketing in the following 6 sections. (More explanations than questions this week.)

**Bracket in Genesis-Esther** – Explain how these books cover the history of God's people. You can read them like a history book.

**Bracket in Job-Song of Solomon** – Explain how these are the writings of God's people. Read them like a very wise person wrote down what they learned in their lifetime.

**Bracket in Isaiah-Malachi** – Explain how these are the prophets. Prophets were people who spoke on behalf of God during the historical time of Genesis-Esther. They are great to study along with the historical books.

**Bracket in Matthew-Acts** – Explain how these are the history books of New Testament. You can read them like a history book.

**Bracket in Romans-Jude** – Explain how these are letters written by specific people to a specific audience. When you read them it's great to know the relationship between the author and audience.

**Bracket in Revelation** – Explain how it's in its own category. It is a vision from God to John. Basically, John is writing down what God revealed to Him about His future return.

**Application Question:** How does understanding this help you as you more effectively read Scripture?

# Session 5 – Fundamentals of Faith

## Introduction to the Bible

**Share:** By this time, you will have good idea about what your share time will consist of. If people are still shy about sharing, it may be a good idea to simply text your members individually before group and ask them if they would help get the share time going by sharing something. If you are in a couples group, try splitting up into guys and girls. The success of this time should be measured by the degree to which you know where each person in your group is in their relationship with God. It is important to be patient with people and work on creating an environment where people feel comfortable sharing. Use these questions to help:

1. How has everybody's week been? How is your relationship with God?
2. What stuck out to you in the reading this week? (ex: John 13-15)

**Goal for Session 5:** Members will grow in their understanding of the Bible and be equipped to introduce others to it.

**Starter Question:** What is one thing you wish someone would have told you about the Bible a long time ago?

**Scripture:** Use the Table of Contents in your Bible to walk through an overview of the Bible. As a Christian, it is helpful to know the overall layout of the Bible. This will help you read every book in the Bible and actually know what you are reading. Use the table of contents to divide the Bible into the sections below.

**Teaching Time:** Turn to Table of Contents and explain the type of books in the Bible by bracketing in the following 6 sections. (More explanations than questions this week.)

**Bracket in Genesis-Esther** – Explain how these books cover the history of God's people. You can read them like a history book.

**Bracket in Job-Song of Solomon** – Explain how these are the writings of God's people. Read them like a very wise person wrote down what they learned in their lifetime.

**Bracket in Isaiah-Malachi** – Explain how these are the prophets. Prophets were people who spoke on behalf of God during the historical time of Genesis-Esther. They are great to study along with the historical books.

**Bracket in Matthew-Acts** – Explain how these are the history books of New Testament. You can read them like a history book.

**Bracket in Romans-Jude** – Explain how these are letters written by specific people to a specific audience. When you read them it's great to know the relationship between the author and audience.

**Bracket in Revelation** – Explain how it's in its own category. It is a vision from God to John. Basically, John is writing down what God revealed to Him about His future return.

**Application Question:** How does understanding this help you as you more effectively read Scripture?

# Session 5 – Fundamentals of Faith

## Introduction to the Bible

**Share:** By this time, you will have good idea about what your share time will consist of. If people are still shy about sharing, it may be a good idea to simply text your members individually before group and ask them if they would help get the share time going by sharing something. If you are in a couples group, try splitting up into guys and girls. The success of this time should be measured by the degree to which you know where each person in your group is in their relationship with God. It is important to be patient with people and work on creating an environment where people feel comfortable sharing. Use these questions to help:

1. How has everybody's week been? How is your relationship with God?
2. What stuck out to you in the reading this week? (ex: John 13-15)

**Goal for Session 5:** Members will grow in their understanding of the Bible and be equipped to introduce others to it.

**Starter Question:** What is one thing you wish someone would have told you about the Bible a long time ago?

**Scripture:** Use the Table of Contents in your Bible to walk through an overview of the Bible. As a Christian, it is helpful to know the overall layout of the Bible. This will help you read every book in the Bible and actually know what you are reading. Use the table of contents to divide the Bible into the sections below.

**Teaching Time:** Turn to Table of Contents and explain the type of books in the Bible by bracketing in the following 6 sections. (More explanations than questions this week.)

**Bracket in Genesis-Esther** – Explain how these books cover the history of God's people. You can read them like a history book.

**Bracket in Job-Song of Solomon** – Explain how these are the writings of God's people. Read them like a very wise person wrote down what they learned in their lifetime.

**Bracket in Isaiah-Malachi** – Explain how these are the prophets. Prophets were people who spoke on behalf of God during the historical time of Genesis-Esther. They are great to study along with the historical books.

**Bracket in Matthew-Acts** – Explain how these are the history books of New Testament. You can read them like a history book.

**Bracket in Romans-Jude** – Explain how these are letters written by specific people to a specific audience. When you read them it's great to know the relationship between the author and audience.

**Bracket in Revelation** – Explain how it's in its own category. It is a vision from God to John. Basically, John is writing down what God revealed to Him about His future return.

**Application Question:** How does understanding this help you as you more effectively read Scripture?

# Session 5 – Fundamentals of Faith

## Introduction to the Bible

**Share:** By this time, you will have good idea about what your share time will consist of. If people are still shy about sharing, it may be a good idea to simply text your members individually before group and ask them if they would help get the share time going by sharing something. If you are in a couples group, try splitting up into guys and girls. The success of this time should be measured by the degree to which you know where each person in your group is in their relationship with God. It is important to be patient with people and work on creating an environment where people feel comfortable sharing. Use these questions to help:

1. How has everybody's week been? How is your relationship with God?
2. What stuck out to you in the reading this week? (ex: John 13-15)

**Goal for Session 5:** Members will grow in their understanding of the Bible and be equipped to introduce others to it.

**Starter Question:** What is one thing you wish someone would have told you about the Bible a long time ago?

**Scripture:** Use the Table of Contents in your Bible to walk through an overview of the Bible. As a Christian, it is helpful to know the overall layout of the Bible. This will help you read every book in the Bible and actually know what you are reading. Use the table of contents to divide the Bible into the sections below.

**Teaching Time:** Turn to Table of Contents and explain the type of books in the Bible by bracketing in the following 6 sections. (More explanations than questions this week.)

**Bracket in Genesis-Esther** – Explain how these books cover the history of God's people. You can read them like a history book.

**Bracket in Job-Song of Solomon** – Explain how these are the writings of God's people. Read them like a very wise person wrote down what they learned in their lifetime.

**Bracket in Isaiah-Malachi** – Explain how these are the prophets. Prophets were people who spoke on behalf of God during the historical time of Genesis-Esther. They are great to study along with the historical books.

**Bracket in Matthew-Acts** – Explain how these are the history books of New Testament. You can read them like a history book.

**Bracket in Romans-Jude** – Explain how these are letters written by specific people to a specific audience. When you read them it's great to know the relationship between the author and audience.

**Bracket in Revelation** – Explain how it's in its own category. It is a vision from God to John. Basically, John is writing down what God revealed to Him about His future return.

**Application Question:** How does understanding this help you as you more effectively read Scripture?

# Session 5 – Fundamentals of Faith

## Introduction to the Bible

**Share:** By this time, you will have good idea about what your share time will consist of. If people are still shy about sharing, it may be a good idea to simply text your members individually before group and ask them if they would help get the share time going by sharing something. If you are in a couples group, try splitting up into guys and girls. The success of this time should be measured by the degree to which you know where each person in your group is in their relationship with God. It is important to be patient with people and work on creating an environment where people feel comfortable sharing. Use these questions to help:

1. How has everybody's week been? How is your relationship with God?
2. What stuck out to you in the reading this week? (ex: John 13-15)

**Goal for Session 5:** Members will grow in their understanding of the Bible and be equipped to introduce others to it.

**Starter Question:** What is one thing you wish someone would have told you about the Bible a long time ago?

**Scripture:** Use the Table of Contents in your Bible to walk through an overview of the Bible. As a Christian, it is helpful to know the overall layout of the Bible. This will help you read every book in the Bible and actually know what you are reading. Use the table of contents to divide the Bible into the sections below.

**Teaching Time:** Turn to Table of Contents and explain the type of books in the Bible by bracketing in the following 6 sections. (More explanations than questions this week.)

**Bracket in Genesis-Esther** – Explain how these books cover the history of God's people. You can read them like a history book.

**Bracket in Job-Song of Solomon** – Explain how these are the writings of God's people. Read them like a very wise person wrote down what they learned in their lifetime.

**Bracket in Isaiah-Malachi** – Explain how these are the prophets. Prophets were people who spoke on behalf of God during the historical time of Genesis-Esther. They are great to study along with the historical books.

**Bracket in Matthew-Acts** – Explain how these are the history books of New Testament. You can read them like a history book.

**Bracket in Romans-Jude** – Explain how these are letters written by specific people to a specific audience. When you read them it's great to know the relationship between the author and audience.

**Bracket in Revelation** – Explain how it's in its own category. It is a vision from God to John. Basically, John is writing down what God revealed to Him about His future return.

**Application Question:** How does understanding this help you as you more effectively read Scripture?

# Session 5 – Fundamentals of Faith

## Introduction to the Bible

**Share:** By this time, you will have good idea about what your share time will consist of. If people are still shy about sharing, it may be a good idea to simply text your members individually before group and ask them if they would help get the share time going by sharing something. If you are in a couples group, try splitting up into guys and girls. The success of this time should be measured by the degree to which you know where each person in your group is in their relationship with God. It is important to be patient with people and work on creating an environment where people feel comfortable sharing. Use these questions to help:

1. How has everybody's week been? How is your relationship with God?
2. What stuck out to you in the reading this week? (ex: John 13-15)

**Goal for Session 5:** Members will grow in their understanding of the Bible and be equipped to introduce others to it.

**Starter Question:** What is one thing you wish someone would have told you about the Bible a long time ago?

**Scripture:** Use the Table of Contents in your Bible to walk through an overview of the Bible. As a Christian, it is helpful to know the overall layout of the Bible. This will help you read every book in the Bible and actually know what you are reading. Use the table of contents to divide the Bible into the sections below.

**Teaching Time:** Turn to Table of Contents and explain the type of books in the Bible by bracketing in the following 6 sections. (More explanations than questions this week.)

**Bracket in Genesis-Esther** – Explain how these books cover the history of God's people. You can read them like a history book.

**Bracket in Job-Song of Solomon** – Explain how these are the writings of God's people. Read them like a very wise person wrote down what they learned in their lifetime.

**Bracket in Isaiah-Malachi** – Explain how these are the prophets. Prophets were people who spoke on behalf of God during the historical time of Genesis-Esther. They are great to study along with the historical books.

**Bracket in Matthew-Acts** – Explain how these are the history books of New Testament. You can read them like a history book.

**Bracket in Romans-Jude** – Explain how these are letters written by specific people to a specific audience. When you read them it's great to know the relationship between the author and audience.

**Bracket in Revelation** – Explain how it's in its own category. It is a vision from God to John. Basically, John is writing down what God revealed to Him about His future return.

**Application Question:** How does understanding this help you as you more effectively read Scripture?

# Session 5 – Fundamentals of Faith

## Introduction to the Bible

**Share:** By this time, you will have good idea about what your share time will consist of. If people are still shy about sharing, it may be a good idea to simply text your members individually before group and ask them if they would help get the share time going by sharing something. If you are in a couples group, try splitting up into guys and girls. The success of this time should be measured by the degree to which you know where each person in your group is in their relationship with God. It is important to be patient with people and work on creating an environment where people feel comfortable sharing. Use these questions to help:

1. How has everybody's week been? How is your relationship with God?
2. What stuck out to you in the reading this week? (ex: John 13-15)

**Goal for Session 5:** Members will grow in their understanding of the Bible and be equipped to introduce others to it.

**Starter Question:** What is one thing you wish someone would have told you about the Bible a long time ago?

**Scripture:** Use the Table of Contents in your Bible to walk through an overview of the Bible. As a Christian, it is helpful to know the overall layout of the Bible. This will help you read every book in the Bible and actually know what you are reading. Use the table of contents to divide the Bible into the sections below.

**Teaching Time:** Turn to Table of Contents and explain the type of books in the Bible by bracketing in the following 6 sections. (More explanations than questions this week.)

**Bracket in Genesis-Esther** – Explain how these books cover the history of God's people. You can read them like a history book.

**Bracket in Job-Song of Solomon** – Explain how these are the writings of God's people. Read them like a very wise person wrote down what they learned in their lifetime.

**Bracket in Isaiah-Malachi** – Explain how these are the prophets. Prophets were people who spoke on behalf of God during the historical time of Genesis-Esther. They are great to study along with the historical books.

**Bracket in Matthew-Acts** – Explain how these are the history books of New Testament. You can read them like a history book.

**Bracket in Romans-Jude** – Explain how these are letters written by specific people to a specific audience. When you read them it's great to know the relationship between the author and audience.

**Bracket in Revelation** – Explain how it's in its own category. It is a vision from God to John. Basically, John is writing down what God revealed to Him about His future return.

**Application Question:** How does understanding this help you as you more effectively read Scripture?

# Session 5 – Fundamentals of Faith

## Introduction to the Bible

**Share:** By this time, you will have good idea about what your share time will consist of. If people are still shy about sharing, it may be a good idea to simply text your members individually before group and ask them if they would help get the share time going by sharing something. If you are in a couples group, try splitting up into guys and girls. The success of this time should be measured by the degree to which you know where each person in your group is in their relationship with God. It is important to be patient with people and work on creating an environment where people feel comfortable sharing. Use these questions to help:

1. How has everybody's week been? How is your relationship with God?
2. What stuck out to you in the reading this week? (ex: John 13-15)

**Goal for Session 5:** Members will grow in their understanding of the Bible and be equipped to introduce others to it.

**Starter Question:** What is one thing you wish someone would have told you about the Bible a long time ago?

**Scripture:** Use the Table of Contents in your Bible to walk through an overview of the Bible. As a Christian, it is helpful to know the overall layout of the Bible. This will help you read every book in the Bible and actually know what you are reading. Use the table of contents to divide the Bible into the sections below.

**Teaching Time:** Turn to Table of Contents and explain the type of books in the Bible by bracketing in the following 6 sections. (More explanations than questions this week.)

**Bracket in Genesis-Esther** – Explain how these books cover the history of God's people. You can read them like a history book.

**Bracket in Job-Song of Solomon** – Explain how these are the writings of God's people. Read them like a very wise person wrote down what they learned in their lifetime.

**Bracket in Isaiah-Malachi** – Explain how these are the prophets. Prophets were people who spoke on behalf of God during the historical time of Genesis-Esther. They are great to study along with the historical books.

**Bracket in Matthew-Acts** – Explain how these are the history books of New Testament. You can read them like a history book.

**Bracket in Romans-Jude** – Explain how these are letters written by specific people to a specific audience. When you read them it's great to know the relationship between the author and audience.

**Bracket in Revelation** – Explain how it's in its own category. It is a vision from God to John. Basically, John is writing down what God revealed to Him about His future return.

**Application Question:** How does understanding this help you as you more effectively read Scripture?

# Session 5 – Fundamentals of Faith

## Introduction to the Bible

**Share:** By this time, you will have good idea about what your share time will consist of. If people are still shy about sharing, it may be a good idea to simply text your members individually before group and ask them if they would help get the share time going by sharing something. If you are in a couples group, try splitting up into guys and girls. The success of this time should be measured by the degree to which you know where each person in your group is in their relationship with God. It is important to be patient with people and work on creating an environment where people feel comfortable sharing. Use these questions to help:

1. How has everybody's week been? How is your relationship with God?
2. What stuck out to you in the reading this week? (ex: John 13-15)

**Goal for Session 5:** Members will grow in their understanding of the Bible and be equipped to introduce others to it.

**Starter Question:** What is one thing you wish someone would have told you about the Bible a long time ago?

**Scripture:** Use the Table of Contents in your Bible to walk through an overview of the Bible. As a Christian, it is helpful to know the overall layout of the Bible. This will help you read every book in the Bible and actually know what you are reading. Use the table of contents to divide the Bible into the sections below.

**Teaching Time:** Turn to Table of Contents and explain the type of books in the Bible by bracketing in the following 6 sections. (More explanations than questions this week.)

**Bracket in Genesis-Esther** – Explain how these books cover the history of God's people. You can read them like a history book.

**Bracket in Job-Song of Solomon** – Explain how these are the writings of God's people. Read them like a very wise person wrote down what they learned in their lifetime.

**Bracket in Isaiah-Malachi** – Explain how these are the prophets. Prophets were people who spoke on behalf of God during the historical time of Genesis-Esther. They are great to study along with the historical books.

**Bracket in Matthew-Acts** – Explain how these are the history books of New Testament. You can read them like a history book.

**Bracket in Romans-Jude** – Explain how these are letters written by specific people to a specific audience. When you read them it's great to know the relationship between the author and audience.

**Bracket in Revelation** – Explain how it's in its own category. It is a vision from God to John. Basically, John is writing down what God revealed to Him about His future return.

**Application Question:** How does understanding this help you as you more effectively read Scripture?

# Session 5 – Fundamentals of Faith

## Introduction to the Bible

**Share:** By this time, you will have good idea about what your share time will consist of. If people are still shy about sharing, it may be a good idea to simply text your members individually before group and ask them if they would help get the share time going by sharing something. If you are in a couples group, try splitting up into guys and girls. The success of this time should be measured by the degree to which you know where each person in your group is in their relationship with God. It is important to be patient with people and work on creating an environment where people feel comfortable sharing. Use these questions to help:

1. How has everybody's week been? How is your relationship with God?
2. What stuck out to you in the reading this week? (ex: John 13-15)

**Goal for Session 5:** Members will grow in their understanding of the Bible and be equipped to introduce others to it.

**Starter Question:** What is one thing you wish someone would have told you about the Bible a long time ago?

**Scripture:** Use the Table of Contents in your Bible to walk through an overview of the Bible. As a Christian, it is helpful to know the overall layout of the Bible. This will help you read every book in the Bible and actually know what you are reading. Use the table of contents to divide the Bible into the sections below.

**Teaching Time:** Turn to Table of Contents and explain the type of books in the Bible by bracketing in the following 6 sections. (More explanations than questions this week.)

**Bracket in Genesis-Esther** – Explain how these books cover the history of God's people. You can read them like a history book.

**Bracket in Job-Song of Solomon** – Explain how these are the writings of God's people. Read them like a very wise person wrote down what they learned in their lifetime.

**Bracket in Isaiah-Malachi** – Explain how these are the prophets. Prophets were people who spoke on behalf of God during the historical time of Genesis-Esther. They are great to study along with the historical books.

**Bracket in Matthew-Acts** – Explain how these are the history books of New Testament. You can read them like a history book.

**Bracket in Romans-Jude** – Explain how these are letters written by specific people to a specific audience. When you read them it's great to know the relationship between the author and audience.

**Bracket in Revelation** – Explain how it's in its own category. It is a vision from God to John. Basically, John is writing down what God revealed to Him about His future return.

**Application Question:** How does understanding this help you as you more effectively read Scripture?

