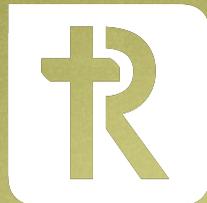


FOUNDATIONS

an introduction to the Christian faith



Dear friends!

I am so excited that you are going through this material! I am grateful to Pastor Don DeJong for writing this material and for allowing us to utilize it.

I believe that every Christian needs a solid *foundation* if they are to live out the Christian faith. This means that the gospel is not just the good news of how we are saved, but the good news for how we live now as Christians.

Whether you are new in your faith, or want to become more grounded in what you believe, this material is invaluable because in it you will find some of the most basic and important foundations of the Christian faith.

As a pastor and teacher I always want to help resource you with material that is founded upon, center around and focused towards **the Word of God**. In the Foundations class you will find exactly that.

This material is best used in the environment of a group but it can also be used for individual study — either way, our desire is that you grow in the Word and in your relationship with Jesus.

I pray that this material would help you to build a solid foundation in the Christian life and that you would press more and more into Him. That, as the Apostle Paul said in **Ephesians 4:15**, [that you would] “*grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ.*”

Lovingly,
Pastor David

Created by Don & Pat DeJong

Revisions by David Lawler and Jaron Hoffman, 2018

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Chapters and Appendix

- (1) The Bible
- (2) God
- (3) Salvation
- (4) Identity (in Christ)
- (5) Temptation and Sin
- (6) The Holy Spirit

Appendix,

The Bible:

Knowing God through the Bible,

God's redemptive plan laid out in the Bible

Tools for studying the Bible

Doctrinal Statement

THE BIBLE

Studying God's Word

The Bible is unique because it is the inspired Word of God. A Christian's worldview is based on the fact that the Bible is the standard for what to believe and how to have a meaningful life. Those who fail to accept this standard choose to live by one of the many deceptive man made standards.

In the Bible we find truths needed to understand God, eternal life, ourselves, and how to live a meaningful life. The truth of Scripture gives comfort while also convicting us of changes that need to be made in our thinking, attitudes, and behavior. In it we find real life stories of people and their commitment to God. The Bible is truly the active and living Word where we will discover His promises for us and guidelines for living.

To better understand the Bible choose a translation that you enjoy reading. *[We recommend the ESV or NASB]. Then ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding and to guide you towards exciting results as you spend time reading, studying and applying God's Word.

Key Verse: Psalm 119:105

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

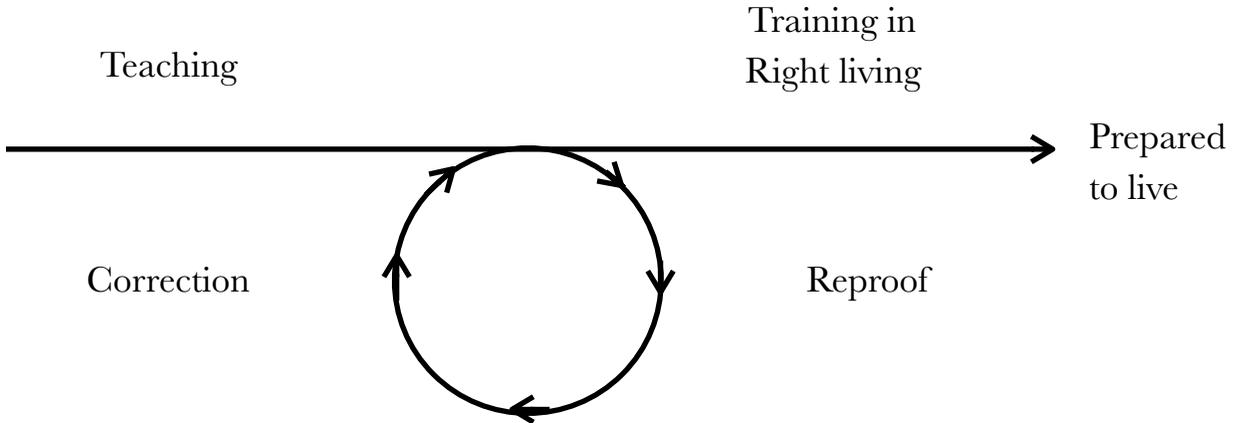
Read and memorize **Psalm 119:105**

*Write down answers to the following questions:

<i>What does it feel like to be in a dark place?</i>	<i>What does a lamp do for your feet?</i>
<i>What does a light do for your path?</i>	<i>How does this passage apply to your life?</i>

Read **2 Timothy 3:16-17** several times and write down the truths:

2 Timothy 3:16-17



- If you follow God's teaching and training this circle is evident in your life (*both in practice and in prayer*).
- If you get off track, God will use His Word to rebuke and correct you so you can return to the straight path of being taught and trained by Him.

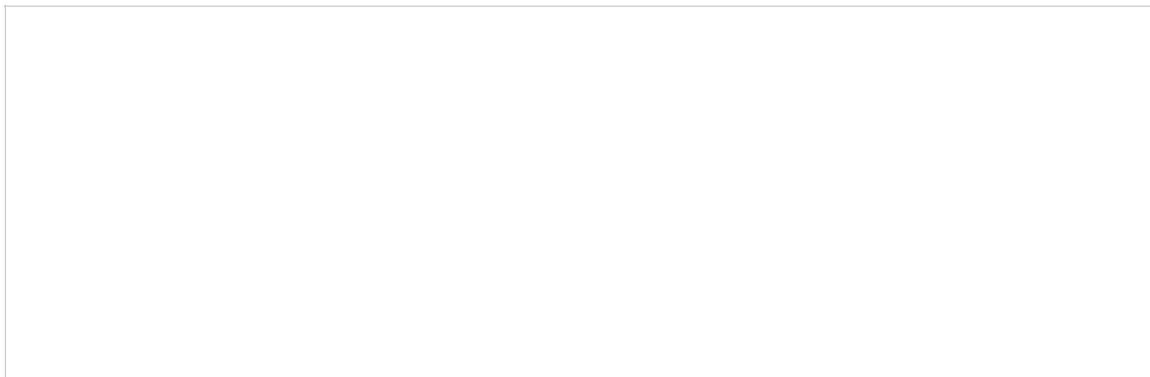
What truths about God's Word are found in these passages?

Hebrews 4:12	2 Peter 1:20-21

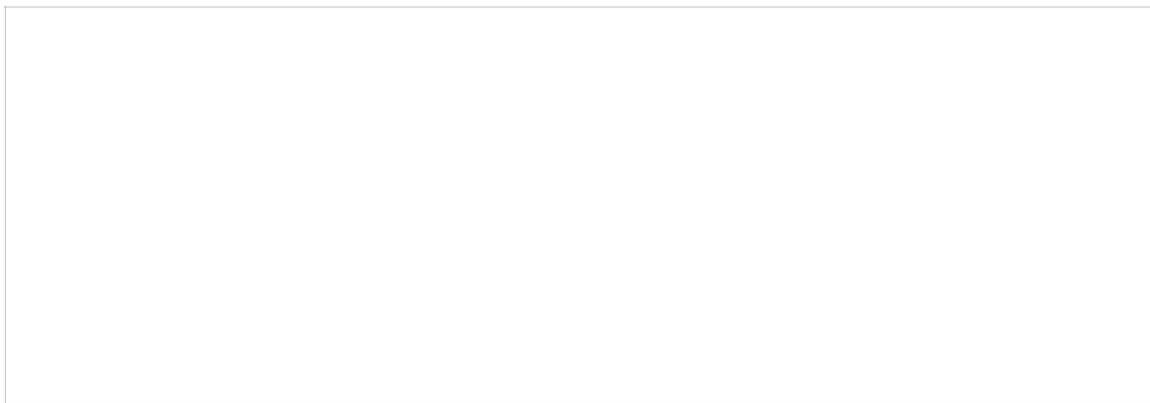
More truths about God's Word:

PASSAGE	MY RESPONSE [TO GOD'S WORD]	RESULT
Psalm 1:2-3		
Psalm 119:4-7		
Psalm 119:9-11		

Read **Psalm 119:33-40** to discover David's attitudes about God's Word.



How do these truths apply to your life?



Application and Resource:

Go to the Appendix section on The Bible for further info and study.
Use the guide to learn how to study the Bible and choose a version.

GOD

Knowing the God of the Bible

“Disregard the study of God, and you sentence yourself to stumble and blunder through life blindfolded, as it were, with no sense of direction and no understanding of what surrounds you. This way you can waste your life and lose your soul.”

— **J.I. Packer, Knowing God**

The greatest challenge and thrill in the Christian life is to grow in the understanding and appreciation of God Himself. The importance of knowing God better cannot be overstated. To know Him is to love and trust Him, and the more we trust Him, the more freedom He has to give direction to our lives.

Therefore, knowing God’s Word
and knowing God *are inseparable*.

A word of caution is in order! Because God is infinite, we will never come to a point where we can say, “I know all there is to know about God.”

In this lesson you’ll learn more about God the Father and God the Son.

Key Verse: Matthew 22:37-38

37 “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment.

How does God reveal Himself to people?

John 1:14	Romans 1:20

Romans 15:4

Why is it so important to know the truth about who God is?

How has God revealed Himself to you this past week?

What are some characteristics of God?

1 Samuel 2:2

Malachi 3:6

How does this make you feel in light of all the changes that take place in and around you?

John 3:16

Psalms 145:3, 6-9, 13-18

Pick one of the characteristics of God to focus on and apply to events and situations that you are involved in currently:

How has this characteristic been meaningful to you?

When you think about who God is:

How do you tend to put God in a box?

Do you show reverence for God by the way you refer to Him?

Who is Jesus Christ and why did He come to earth?

PASSAGE	WHO HE IS	WHY HE CAME
John 1:29		
John 3:16		
John 14:6		
1 Corinthians 15:3-5		

What else do we know about Jesus Christ?

Colossians 1:15-20

As you think about the previous passages:

Is Jesus Christ God or was He just a good man? **[John 1:1-3]**

How should this affect your life?

What do you want to tell God “thank you” for?

WHO GOD IS

He is the Rock; his deeds are perfect. Everything he does is just and fair. He is a faithful God who does no wrong; how just and upright he is! **Deuteronomy 32:4**

The righteous LORD loves justice. **Psalms 11:7**

The LORD is my shepherd. **Psalms 23:1**

O Lord, you are so good, so ready to forgive, so full of unfailing love for all who ask for your help. **Psalms 86:5**

How great is our Lord! His power is absolute! His understanding is beyond comprehension! **Psalms 147:5**

And He (Jesus) will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **Isaiah 9:6**

For I alone am God! I am God, and there is none like me. Only I can tell you the future before it even happens. Everything I plan will come to pass, for I do whatever I wish. **Isaiah 46:9-10**

Ah, Sovereign LORD! You made the heavens and the earth by your strong hand and powerful arm. Nothing is too hard for You! **Jeremiah 32:17**

The faithful love of the LORD never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is His faithfulness; His mercies begin afresh each morning. **Lamentations 3:22-23**

I am the LORD, and I do not change. **Malachi 3:6**

But God shows His anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness. **Romans 1:18**

God brought us back to Himself through Christ. **2 Corinthians 5:18**

He (Christ) holds all creation together. **Colossians 1:17**

For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. **Colossians 2:9**

All honor and glory to God forever and ever! He is the eternal King, the unseen one who never dies; He alone is God.

1 Timothy 1:17

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. ...He is the one to whom we are accountable. **Hebrews 4:13**

Now all glory to God, who is able to keep you from falling away and will bring you with great joy into his glorious presence without a single fault. All glory to Him who alone is God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord. All glory, majesty, power, and authority are His before all time, and in the present, and beyond all time! Amen **Jude 1:24-25**

Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty, the one who always was, who is, and who is still to come. **Revelation 4:8**

Application

1) Look through these truths again, and confess any wrong ways you have viewed God. 2) Thank God for the privilege of knowing Him.

SALVATION

The Good News

Is it really possible to know the God of the universe in a personal way and to live with Him eternally? Yes, and undoubtedly this is the greatest of God's treasures. Because the treasure is so magnificent, it sometimes seems unbelievable, but God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, who through the cross died for our sins and through the resurrection we live through Him.

“The key word of the Christian life is not “do,” but “done.” It’s not based on what you do but on accepting what God has done.”

— **Dave Browning, Welcome Home**

The language of the reformation was that we are saved *by grace alone, through faith alone in Christ alone*. These were phrases to emphasize that the good news is something that is “done” not something that we “do”.

Understanding salvation and what the gospel is is probably one of the most important thing both believer and non-believer share in importance of understanding.

This lesson shows how to become a child of God and how to know for sure that you are His child.

Key Verse: 1 John 5:13

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.

Read **John 3:16-21**

Why did God send His Son?

What decisions face each person?

What are the *consequences* of rejecting God's love?

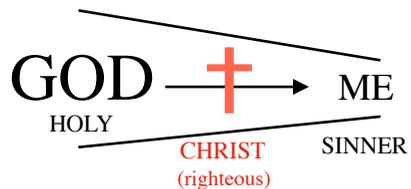
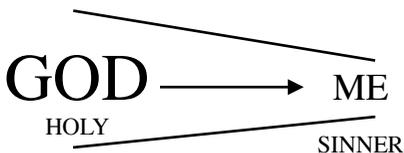
What are the *benefits* of receiving God's love?

How does God view a person who is not a Christian?

What passages of scripture help us understand God's view?

How does God view Christians?

What passages of scripture help us understand God's view?



Read the following section on **The Gospel**:

Without the gospel all we have is our own efforts and our own works. The gospel is the good news about Jesus Christ who came to earth to reconcile us while we were sinners separated from God — allowing those who believe to have right standing before God, and having an intimate relationship with Him through our belief and our new life in Jesus.

So this is the good news of the gospel, that when we have faith in Jesus you and I have right standing before God. So its not by our efforts, not by our works, not by how good we do, following less of this or more of that — but by the incredible love and mercy of a God that pursues busted up sinful people.

IN THE BIBLE **THE GOSPEL** IS EXPLAINED IN THESE 4 STEPS:

(1) **GOD**: The one and only God, who is holy, made us in His image to know Him (Genesis 1:26-28).

(2) **MAN**: But we sinned and cut ourselves off from Him (Genesis 3; Romans 3:23).

(3) **JESUS**: In His great love, God sent his Son Jesus to come and rescue us from our enemies— and most significantly our own sin (Luke 1:67-79, Romans 6:23).

So Jesus Christ, who is fully God and fully man, lived a sinless life, (and then willingly for us by the will of the Father) died on the cross to bear God's wrath in the place of all who would believe in Him, and rose from the grave in order to give us eternal life.

That is why **John 3:16** is one of the most simple and most powerful gospel presentations given by Jesus in the New Testament: *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.*

(4) **RESPONSE**: So then, God calls everyone everywhere to repent of their sins and trust in Christ in order to be saved (Mark 1:15, Romans 10:9-10).

What prevents us from knowing God personally?

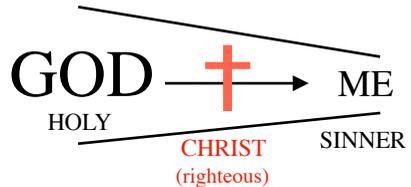
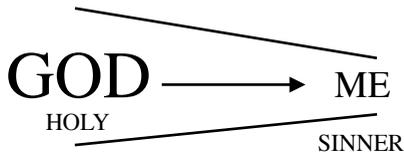
[Reference **Romans 3:23, 6:23**]

In your own words, describe sin:

What did Christ do for us?

[Reference **Romans 5:8**]

What are the differences between the diagrams shown below?



How can a person know God?

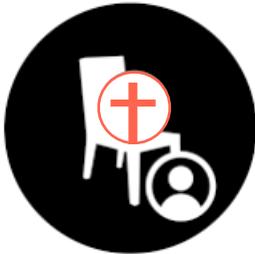
[Reference **John 1:12, John 14:6, Ephesians 2:8**]

Which circle would you like to have represent your life?



SELF-DIRECTED LIFE

You are in control and Jesus has no influence in your life. People like this have never received Jesus into their lives. They remain guilty and cut off from God by their sin.



CHRIST-DIRECTED LIFE

Jesus is in control and you are following him as Lord. People like this have received Jesus into their life. They have been forgiven and experience God's love.

Write your answer to the question above:

What are some of the reasons people choose a **self-directed life**?

The Christ-Directed life begins with a confession of faith.

Read, **Romans 10:9-10**

Have you made this confession?

After receiving Christ *great change* takes place in a person's life:

Write down answers to the following questions, along with what this means to you.

What did you receive?

John 5:24

Whose child are you?

John 1:12

What is God's plan for you?

John 10:10

What do you have?

Romans 5:1-2

What are you now?

2 Corinthians 5:17

Where is Christ?

Galatians 2:20

What is different now?

Colossians 1:13-14, 2:13-14

ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

Are you always God's child or can you "lose your salvation?"

Can we know that we have eternal life? Why?

1 John 5:11-13

What is God's promise to you?

Hebrews 13:5

Based on what you learned about God, can you trust Him to keep His promise?

If you died today, where would you spend eternity?

If your answer is Heaven, why would God let you in?

Ephesians 2:8-9

Based on what you've learned, can anything better happen to you than receiving Christ?

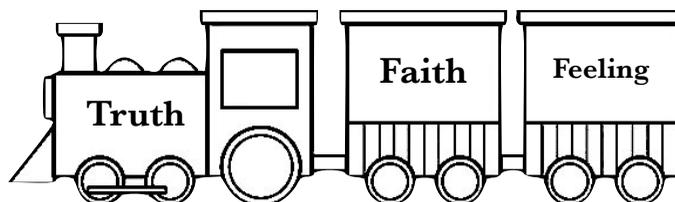
**Right now you can thank God in prayer for what He has done for you!*

When or if doubts regarding your salvation occur, reject the lie that comes from the doubt, thank God that you are His child, and ask God to solidify the truth in your mind. [Memorize **1 John 5:11-13** and **Hebrews 13:5**]

What guides your life — *truth, circumstances or feelings?*

We tend to live by circumstances or our feelings which can easily deceive us. But, God has a better plan. The promises found in God's Word are our authority. When we live by faith in the trustworthiness of God and His Word, we will be able to experience His love and hope.

The train diagram below illustrates that it would be useless to attempt to pull the train by the caboose. Therefore putting faith in our feelings is ridiculous. When we have faith (trust) in God and His Word (which is truth), He gives us peace and hope.



What *feelings* and/or *circumstances* are you allowing to control you?

*Write them down in the box below:

After making your list, if you discover that any feelings that show a lack of trust in God, pray and give these to God. Ask Him to give you faith to trust in Him and the promises of His Word.

IDENTITY

*Who I Am **In Christ***

It is only as you understand your spiritual heritage that God's plan for you makes sense. You were a sinner before becoming a Christian, but now you are a saint who occasionally sins. **What does it mean to be a saint?** As a child of God, you have been set apart for holiness.

Believing the truth about God is the basis for what you believe about yourself and how you live your life. Therefore, in order for you to have a firm foundation for your Christian life, you must have a thorough understanding of your spiritual heritage — who you are in Christ.

Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:17

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.
The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

Who do you say that you are?

This question is identity-shaping, life-altering, and eternity-affecting. When we think about this question it is often answered by defining external qualities. Identity is often related to style, appearance, vocation or even belief — but how God answers this question is more important...

Who does God say that you are?

What God says about you is far more important than what you say about you! Most Christians, when they think about their relationship with God they are looking at it through a lens of what they DO and then who He is. But when God looks at us it is through the lens of what He has DONE and who we are in Christ. In this chapter you will learn about Christian identity.

When and how did you become a part of God's family?

[Reference **John 1:12**]

What does the Bible say if you are not part of God's family?

[Reference **Ephesians 2:1-3**]

The Bible speaks of our identity being in Christ as believers over 216 times.

The Apostle Paul, in his 13 letters in the New Testament that he writes, talks about our identity being **in Christ** by using language like, "*in him [Christ], in the Beloved, in Christ.*"

This is important! Anyone who tells you something over 216 times is saying that 1) it's very important and 2) they don't want you to forget it.

Read aloud and think about the truths in *Who I Am In Christ* (next page)

WHO I AM IN CHRIST

The Lord Jesus Christ is my savior therefore...

I am a child of God. **John 1:12**

I am Christ's friend. **John 15:15**

I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit. **John 15:16**

I have been given the power of the Holy Spirit so I can witness for Christ. **Acts 1:8**

I have peace with God. **Romans 5:1**

I am free from condemnation. **Romans 8:1**

I am assured that all things work together for good. **Romans 8:28**

I can't be separated from God's love. **Romans 8:38**

I am united with the Lord, and I am one spirit with Him. **1 Corinthians 6:17**

I am God's temple. **1 Corinthians 6:19**

I have been bought with a price and I am not my own. **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

I am a member of Christ's body. **1 Corinthians 12:27**

I have been anointed and sealed by God. **2 Corinthians 1:21-22**

I am a new creation. **2 Corinthians 5:17**

I am Christ's ambassador. **2 Corinthians 5:20**

I am a saint. **Ephesians 1:1**

I have been adopted as God's child. **Ephesians 1:5**

I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realm. **Ephesians 2:6**

I am God's workmanship. **Ephesians 2:10**

I may approach God with freedom and confidence. **Ephesians 3:12**

I have access to God through the Holy Spirit. **Ephesians 2:18**

I am confident that the good work that God has begun in me will be perfected.

Philippians 1:6

I am a citizen of heaven. **Philippians 3:20**

I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength. **Philippians 4:13**

I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins. **Colossians 1:14**

I am hidden with Christ in God. **Colossians 3:3**

I have not been given a spirit of fear but of power, love, and a sound mind.

2 Timothy 1:7

I can find grace and mercy in time of need. **Hebrews 4:16**

What difference will it make in your life knowing who you are in Christ?

It is important to understand the difference between your position as a child of God and your fellowship (companionship) with God.

Position as a child of God	Fellowship (companionship) with God
What is true about you? John 1:12-13	What is true about you as a child of God? 1 Corinthians 1:9
What is your position based on? Ephesians 2:8-9	What is fellowship based on? 1 John 1:5-8
What is true about your position? John 10:27-29	What affects your fellowship with God? Psalms 66:18
Can your position be improved? Why or why not? Hebrews 10:10	How can your fellowship with God be restored? 1 John 1:9

Behavior is always a result of what we believe about God, ourselves, and others. Read the following scriptures to learn more about this:

Matthew 12:34-35

Write down any thoughts here about this passage.

John 14:15

Write down any thoughts here about this passage.

Why are there times I don't feel like a saint?

The New Testament refers to believers as saints because God views us through Christ's sacrifice — and in that, God's view of us never changes. When we remember these truths, our lives will reflect our true identity. But when we let situations control our emotions and behavior, we won't reflect our true identity.

During our life, God continues to bring our behavior into conformity with how He views us.

“For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.”

Hebrews 10:14

“...And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.” **Philippians 1:6**

[Refer back to the train diagram in the previous lesson]

Write down any additional thoughts here.

As a saint, what is His plan for your life?

*Write your answers in the boxes below each passage of scripture.

2 Corinthians 3:18	Ephesians 2:10
2 Peter 1:3-4	2 Peter 3:18
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18	

The greatest step we can take in our lives is to believe what God says about who Jesus is and receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

The second greatest step you can take is to believe what God says about who you are. This is where we move from *sinner* to *saint*. This is a life in Christ that is not based upon who *we* think we are but on who *God* says we are.

Recommended Resources:

Welcome Home, Dave Browning

The Gospel, Raymond C. Ortlund Jr.

TEMPTATION & SIN

Looking to our Advocate

Temptation is a lie in disguise designed to lead us from the path of trusting God to the path of independence that satisfies selfish desires. Sin, submitting to temptation, is out of character for God's children.

Sin is offensive to God and separates man and God. It is expensive and cost God the life of his Son to pay sin's penalty. If we would stop and think about this truth when we are tempted, we would conclude that sin is foolish and just plain stupid.

God has provided everything we need to deal with sin and temptation and to help prevent us from sinning against Him. The question is whether or not we will make use of His provision. The choice is ours.

Key Verse: Galatians 5:16-17a

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh...

The painful truth is that there are things that you and I struggle with and things that we hide. We do this with each other (even in the Christian community) but it is even more painful to think how we do this with God.

The Christian that hides or even maintains sin is not free, they are either wrestling around in darkness or in some type of bondage — and yet, the Christian is one who is free in Christ. This is a head scratching dichotomy.

In this section we will cover how to deal with sin in the Christian life and how to look to Christ — our perfect advocate.

What does **James 1:13-15** say about temptation and sin?

What is temptation?	How does it differ from sin?
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What promises can you depend upon when you are tempted?

1 Corinthians 10:13	Hebrews 4:15-16
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What is sin?

Isaiah 53:6	John 8:34
James 4:17	

So I am a saint, but what about sin?

<p>Does this mean you won't ever sin? Read 1 John 2:1-6</p> <p>What does Jesus do for us?</p>	<p>What does 1 John 3:9 mean?</p>
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Since God has set us free and given us everything we need to live a holy life, why do we still choose to sin (make choices independently from Him)?

<p>Genesis 3:1-6</p>	<p>1 Peter 5:8-9</p>	<p>1 John 2:15-17</p>
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What does God's Word say about confession?

<p>Proverbs 28:13</p>	<p>1 John 1:9</p>	<p>James 5:16</p>
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What can you learn from David's example found in **Psalm 32:1-5**?

Does God forgive based on what we do or on what Christ has done?

Read **Ephesians 1:7-8**

The cross is always the basis for my forgiveness. When Christ died for me, all of my sins were in the future.

Why do I need to confess? Because it is a command, and my sin is offensive to God. Confession allows me to experience God's forgiveness.



Christ died
2000 years ago



My life now

CHOOSING TO STAY CLOSE TO GOD

When you become aware of a sin (“**X**”), there is a choice to be made.

You can confess to God that you have sinned, turn from that thought or action, and continue to trust in God who set you free from sin. This action results in continued freedom and confidence and fellowship with God.

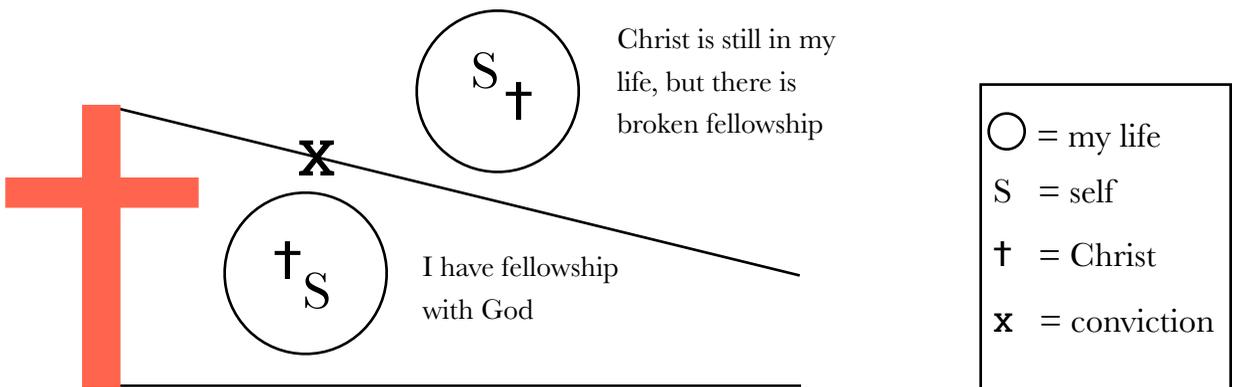
The other choice is to ignore the conviction, succumb to the lie that the sin is not so bad, or think that it was okay because it fulfills a desire (**Genesis 3:1-7**).

When we make this choice we are:

- *Experiencing broken fellowship with God*
- *Willfully suppressing the truth*
- *Exchanging the truth for a lie*
- *Acting like non-Christians*
- *Acting like infants*
- *Ignoring the promises of God*

The longer you embrace this thought or behavior, the more difficult it becomes to turn your back on the sin, and a habit may be formed.

The answer remains the same. Confess to God the sin, turn from it, ask Him for forgiveness, and trust Him to give you the strength to avoid the trap in the future.



How can you resist the pressures to live independently of God?

Psalm 119:11	Proverbs 4:12-15
Matthew 26:41	Galatians 5:16-18
Hebrews 3:12-14	
Hebrews 4:14-16	Hebrews 12:1-3

What are the steps of **confession**?

STEP	MEANING
Coming before the Lord	
(1) Confession (2) Forgiveness (3) Repentance	Using 1 John 1:9 , look at how this passage takes us through each step of Biblical confession. (1) Confession is admitting to God and acknowledging that you have sinned against Him. (2) Forgiveness is asking God who is faithful and just in Christ to forgive you of that sin. (3) Repentance is where you ask God who is faithful and just in Christ to lead you to right living in Him.
Submitting to the Lord	
<i>[This is the topic of the next lesson]</i>	Submit to Christ being Lord of your life. 1 Peter 2:9

Are there sins that are separating you from God right now?

Take time to walk through true confession so that God would be honored and you would be pointed towards true and Biblical confession. *If you need help with any of the following, talk to your Foundations Group leader.

Consider these steps:

1. Read **Psalm 139:23-24** and make this your prayer.
 2. Make a list of the sins that God convicts you of.
 3. Read **1 John 1:9** and confess each sin to God.
- In faith, know that God through Christ is just and faithful to forgive us.

How can you continue to experience God's love and forgiveness?

Confess and repent as soon as God convicts you of any sin. Doing this will help you live a Christ-Centered life instead of a roller coaster life. [Refer back to the question "*What are the steps of confession?*" if needed].

THE HOLY SPIRIT

filled, directed & empowered by the Spirit

Trying to live the Christian life alone is a deceptive myth. It forces the question to be, “*When have I tried hard enough or done enough?*” It is in direct opposition to the real truth about living the Christian life, especially considering the church together being Spirit filled and directed.

God’s Spirit provides all the power we need to mature and live a life pleasing to God. When we are filled, directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we will live in conscious dependence upon Him. We will recognize that it is His life, His power, His wisdom, His resources, and His strength operating through us which enable us to live according to His will.

But still, there are many misconceptions about the identity of the Holy Spirit. Some view the Holy Spirit as a mystical force. Others understand the Holy Spirit as the impersonal power that God makes available to followers of Christ. And even some view the Holy Spirit as inactive or absent.

While there is a degree of divine mystery to the nature of the Holy Spirit, He is definitely not a bundle of warm feelings or good memories. Neither is He a vague cosmic force. He is the third person in the trinity.

Simply put, the Bible declares that the Holy Spirit is God. The Bible also tells us that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, a being with a mind, emotions, and a will.

In this lesson we will look at the identity and work of the Holy Spirit.

Key Verse: Galatians 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

What does the Bible say about the identity of the Holy Spirit?

Genesis 1:1-2	Acts 5:1-4	Romans 8:9-11
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The following passages describe specific works and involvements of the Holy Spirit (*both in the believers life and God's work*). Read each passage and write down what the Holy Spirit is doing or has done in each passage:

Genesis 1:2; Psalm 33:6	John 3:5
1 Corinthians 6:19	2 Peter 1:21

For the Christian who knows the reality of being filled with the Holy Spirit and who lives constantly, moment by moment, under His gracious direction there is an incredible dependance upon and trust in the Holy Spirit.

THREE TYPES OF PEOPLE



1. Natural Person (Self-Directed Life)

(Someone who has not received Christ.)

Self is on the throne, directing decisions and actions (represented by the dots), often resulting in frustration. Jesus is outside the life.

Read, **1 Corinthians 2:14**



2. Spiritual Person (Christ-Directed Life)

(One who is directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit.)

Jesus is in the life and on the throne. Self is yielding to Jesus. The person sees Jesus' influence and direction in their life.

Read, **1 Corinthians 2:15**



3. Spiritually Unnatural Person (Self-Directed Life)

(One who has received Christ, but who lives in defeat because he is trying to live the Christian life in his own strength.)

Jesus is in the life but not on the throne. Self is on the throne, directing decisions and actions (represented by the dots), often resulting in frustration.

Read, **1 Corinthians 3:1-3**

Which circle represents your life?

God has promised and provided for us an abundant and fruitful Christian life:

Read the following passages: **John 10:10, John 15:5, Acts 1:8, Galatians 5:22-23**

How has God provided for us?

Evaluate the circle and description: **2. Spiritual Person**

Is this the type of life you are living?

Is this the type of life you desire? Why?

Jesus promised an abundant and fruitful life through being filled (directed and empowered) by the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit-filled life is the Christ-directed life by which Christ lives His life in and through us in the power of the Holy Spirit (**John 15**).

How do we receive the Holy Spirit?

Read, John 3:5-16

At what point do we receive the Holy Spirit?

Read, 1 Corinthians 12:13, Romans 8:9, Ephesians 1:13-14

These three passages make it clear that the Holy Spirit is received at the moment of salvation. Paul could not say that we all were baptized by one Spirit and all given one Spirit to drink if not all of the Corinthian believers possessed the Holy Spirit.

*If you have not trusted in Jesus for Salvation then go back to chapter: **SALVATION** and read through *The Gospel (4 Biblical Steps)* section.

What is the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer?

Acts 1:8	2 Corinthians 1:21-22
Galatians 3:1-3	Galatians 5:22-23

This discussion is often controversial because the ministries of the Holy Spirit are often confused:

- The *receiving/indwelling* of the Spirit occurs at the moment of salvation.
- The *filling* of the Spirit is an ongoing process in the Christian life.

While we hold that the baptism of the Spirit occurs at the moment of salvation, some Christians do not. This sometimes results in the baptism of the Spirit being confused with “receiving the Spirit” as an act subsequent to salvation.

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

The Spirit functions as fruit-producer in our lives. When He indwells us, He begins the work of harvesting His fruit in our lives.

Now, it is very important to understand that the fruit of the Spirit is *holistic*. The point of **Galatians 5:22-23** and the point of what the Holy Spirit of God does in us is a transformation motivated by love that occurs in our life (in a *holistic* way).

So as you walk in the spirit, Paul is not saying that you work out each of these as you see fit and grow a little here and prune a little there — NO! This “*fruit*” is the evidence of life in the Spirit and being guided by the Spirit.

Read, **Galatians 5:22-23**

What is the *fruit* of the Spirit?

Why do you think that **love** is the first of the fruit mentioned as working in the life of the Spirit-filled believer?

THE FRUIT APPLIED

Think through the fruit of the Spirit in **Galatians 5:22-23**. According to (**v18, 22, 25**) what is our part in producing these qualities? What is the Spirit's part?



LOVE **ἀγάπη**

benevolence, good will, esteem

Love is patient and kind; **love** does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful... (1 Corinthians 13:4-5)



JOY **χαρά**

gladness, a source of joy

Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with **joy** that is inexpressible and filled with glory... (1 Peter 1:8)



PEACE **εἰρήνη**

harmony, welfare, peace of mind

For he himself is our **peace**, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility... that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making **peace**... (Ephesians 2:14-15)



PATIENCE **μακροθυμία**

forbearance, longsuffering

But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect **patience** as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. (1 Timothy 1:16)



KINDNESS **χρηστότης**

uprightness, benignity, gentleness

But when the goodness and loving **kindness** of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy... (Titus 3:4-5)



GOODNESS **ἀγαθωσύνη**

intrinsic goodness and kindness

Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is **good** and right and true)... (Ephesians 5:8-9)



FAITHFULNESS **πίστις**

belief, trust, confidence

Jesus said to him, "Recover your sight; your **faith** has made you well." And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him, glorifying God. (Luke 18:42-43)



GENTLENESS **πραΰτης**

meekness, meekness, courtesy

Remind them ... to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect **courtesy** toward all people. (Titus 3:1-2)



SELF-CONTROL **ἐγκράτεια**

self-mastery, self-restraint, continence

For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with **self-control**, and **self-control** with steadfastness... (2 Peter 1:5-6)



If the fruit is to be applied *holistically*, then what area of your life shows a neglect or oversight in applying the fruit of the Spirit?

Looking at the graph on the previous page, are there specific fruit that you struggle to apply? Explain.

How can you (or do you) see the fruit of the Spirit growing in your life?

Do you have natural characteristics which could be confused with the fruit of the Spirit? How can you tell the difference?

THE SPIRIT DIRECTED LIFE

If the Holy Spirit is guiding and directing the life of the believer then there is an active submission where the believer is pointed continually towards life in Christ — even to deeper commitment and relationship.

Would you say that you are led by the Spirit (**Gal. 5:18**)? Why or why not?

What does it mean to crucify the flesh?

Read, **Galatians 5:24**

Why is this verse important to be able to apply the fruit of the Spirit?

How would you practically describe a believer who is walking in the Spirit?
What are the signs that a believer is out of step with the Spirit?

Read, **Galatians 5:25-26**

Can we purchase or claim the filling of the Holy Spirit?

Read, **Acts 8:9-25**

Are there ways in which we grieve or offended the Holy Spirit?

Read, **Ephesians 4:29-32**

If you have grieved or offended the Holy Spirit (as described in the passage above) then go back to the section: **TEMPTATION & SIN** and read through the “Biblical Confession” practice.

Confession and repentance are important parts of the Christian life and the conviction of both are often from the Holy Spirit (**John 16:13, 1 John 2:1**).

In the pages of Scripture, we come face to face with the third Person of the trinity, God himself in Spirit, and we see His very personal and intimate ministry to us.

Through Him, we come to know God's love for us "*because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us*" (**Romans 5:5**).

To understand the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to find joy in His role as our Comforter (**John 16:7; Acts 9:31**) who not only helps and comforts us, but who comes to our rescue when our hearts are so burdened we cannot even pray for relief (**Romans 8:26**).

When we pursue the knowledge of the Holy Spirit we find, to our great delight, that He not only lives within us, but He does so forever, never to leave or forsake us (**John 14:16**). All these truths are burned into our hearts when we study the Word to know the Holy Spirit.

A good summary verse for our study is **John 16:8-11**:

8 And when He (the Holy Spirit) comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; 10 concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; 11 concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

We can know that the Holy Spirit is indeed a divine person because He possesses a mind, emotions, and a will:

- The Holy Spirit thinks and knows (**1 Corinthians 2:10**).
- The Holy Spirit can be grieved (**Ephesians 4:30**).
- The Spirit intercedes for us (**Romans 8:26-27**).
- He makes decisions according to His will (**1 Corinthians 12:7-11**).

The Holy Spirit is God, the third Person of the Trinity. As God, the Holy Spirit can truly function as the Comforter and Counselor that Jesus promised He would be (**John 14:16, 26, 15:26**).

How can you apply these truths to your daily life that you have learned so far?

Recommended Resources:

Forgotten God, Francis Chan

How to Be Filled with the Holy Spirit, A.W. Tozer

APPENDIX

The Bible

THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD

It doesn't just contain God's Word, it is God's Word to mankind. It is a unique and powerful book because it is the inspired and inerrant Word of God. *A Christian's worldview is based on the fact that the Bible is the standard for what to believe and hope for eternity.* Those who fail to accept this standard choose to live by one of the many deceptive man-made standards.

In the Bible we find truths that are needed to understand God, eternal life, ourselves, and how to live a meaningful life. The truth of Scripture gives comfort while also convicting us of changes that need to be made in our thinking, attitudes, and behavior. In it we find real life stories of people and their commitment to God. The Bible is truly a life map where we will discover His promises for us and guidelines for living.

The scripture, both the Old and the New Testaments, are the inspired Word of God, without error in the original writings. It is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and the divine and final authority for Christian faith and life. (2 Timothy 3:16-17 2 Peter 1:20-21)

— **Christ the King Doctrinal Statement**

EVIDENCE SUPPORTS THE FACT THAT THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD

Most would agree that the Bible is a very unusual book leading many to question it's authenticity:

- Archeological evidence confirms the accuracy of the Bible.
- There is more evidence for the reliability of the New Testament than for almost any ten pieces of classical literature combined.
- There are over 5000 Greek manuscript copies of the New Testament.

- The original manuscripts were inspired and without error.
- The Bible was written over a period of 1500 years by more than 40 different God inspired human authors from peasants to kings, with different personalities, life experiences, and geographical locations. These authors wrote from three different continents and in three different languages. In spite of this, there are no contradictions.
- The Bible reveals itself to be God's Word to us in hundreds of passages, two of which are below.

See, **2 Timothy 3:16-17** and **2 Peter 1:20-21**

THE BIBLE IS A BOOK ABOUT GOD'S REDEMPTION OF MANKIND

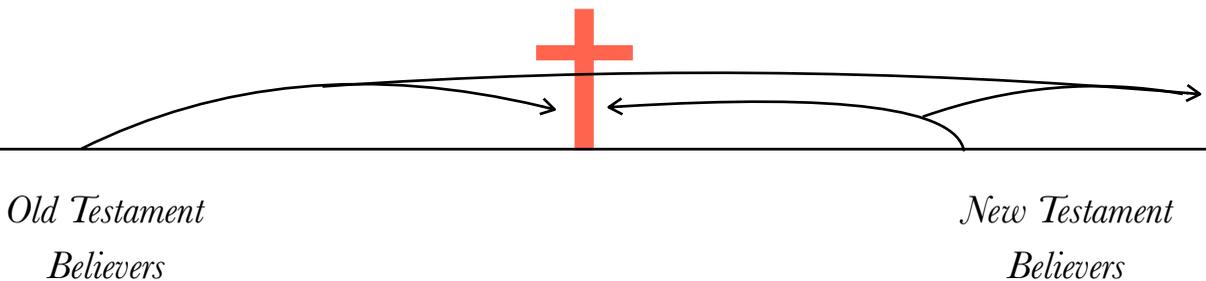
God's plan of salvation through Jesus Christ for mankind is the one unifying theme from Genesis to Revelation. This theme progresses from the creation of the present heavens and earth to the creation of a new heaven and earth, with Jesus Christ always being the center piece.

The Bible reveals that since God is the Creator, people belong to God and are accountable to Him. In the Garden of Eden, God set the standard for Adam by telling him that he had freedom to eat from any tree in the garden except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The consequences of disobedience to that standard are spelled out as well—separation from God (spiritual death) and separation from the body (physical death).

Without a solution, the eternal consequence of disobeying God was eternal separation from God in the lake of fire. God's solution to this problem is revealed throughout the rest of the Bible.

Old Testament believers looked forward to the coming of the Messiah that God had promised throughout the Old Testament, and they looked beyond to the hope of eternal life with God.

New Testament believers look back to the cross and the resurrection while looking ahead to the promised hope of eternal life with God. Both of these events culminate in the unique person of Jesus Christ.



GOD'S PLAN OF REDEMPTION IS REVEALED IN 9 MAJOR EVENTS OF HISTORY

1. Creation (Genesis 1, 2)
2. Sin (Genesis 3)
3. Worldwide flood (Genesis 6)
4. Tower of Babel (Genesis 11)
5. Chosen nation (Genesis 12 to Malachi)
6. Christ (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)
7. Cross (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)
8. Church (Acts-Jude)
9. Eternity (Revelation)

THE BIBLE IS OUR GUIDEBOOK

To help us understand Scripture, God has provided the church with uniquely gifted human teachers. But, just as in bible times, there are false teachers today who preach in churches, on radio and TV, and who write books found in Christian book stores.

Interpreting scripture to make it say what it was never intended to say will lead to division, error, heresy, and apostasy. So, make sure you check out what is being taught.

Today there are more than 50 translations of the New Testament all of which are based on the original manuscripts. **Which version should you use?**

This is a matter of personal preference and conviction. Pick a version that you enjoy reading and that you can easily understand. Then ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding and expect exciting results as you spend time reading, studying and applying God's Word.

We recommend using a word-for-word Bible. This is most helpful when studying scripture. **We use the ESV Bible in our preaching and teaching.* (Other helpful word-for-word Bible translations include the NASB and NKJV).

TOOLS FOR STUDYING THE BIBLE

Before you get started, think through the following:

- When will you read? Do you have a consistent time?
- Where will you read? Do you have a consistent place?
- What will you read? Do you have a plan?
- What do you need? Do you have a Bible, journal, pen and highlighter?

PRAYER

You should always approach the Scriptures in a posture of prayerful humility and longing. Ask God to:

- Incline you entirely to His Word.
- Open your eyes to see the beautiful wonders of Christ and the glories of the gospel.
- Unite your heart to fear His name, knowing that your desires are ever divided.
- Satisfy you with His steadfast and unfailing love.

READING

The first step of study is to simply read the passage a few times to get an idea of the content, context and flow. Highlight particular sections that stand out so that you can come back to them later.

OBSERVATION *[What do you see?]*

Observation lays the groundwork for all subsequent study. Cutting corners in this step can cause the entire process to unravel.

What are you observing? Everything. Your goal is not to determine what is and is not significant. Everything is significant.

Observation is kind of like panning for gold. Your goal is to dig up as much as possible and allow the later processes to sift the gold.

1. Mark up the passage. Don't be afraid to write in your Bible. Circle, underline and highlight. Write in the margins. Get creative.
2. List 2-3 overarching themes you see in the passage.
3. List at least two observations per verse. The more the merrier.
4. Write down questions to think through in the step of interpretation.

INTERPRETATION [*What does it mean?*]

Your observations will most likely lead to interesting and challenging questions about the text. The step of interpretation allows you to sift through the various observations in order to provide answers.

Who is...

- ...the author?
- ...the audience?
- ...being discussed? ...accomplishing the action?

Where is...

- ...the author?
- ...the audience?
- ...the action taking place?

What is the...

- ...meaning of this word? ...significance of this phrase?
- ...implication of this statement? ...overarching theme?

Why did the author...

- ...choose this word? ...include this phrase?
- ...use this command? ...connect these ideas? ...not say ____?

1. Consider the context.
2. Compare multiple translations (ESV, NASB, NIV).
3. Look up key words.
4. Check out cross-references to see how this passage relates to others.
5. When stumped, list out all the various options and pros and cons of each. After due consideration, use supplemental resources such as the ESV Study Bible or commentaries for helpful insights and background information.
6. Don't stop until you have considered how this passage fits into the overarching redemptive plan of God – the gospel. How does this passage relate to the person and work of Christ?
7. Make sure to discuss insights and questions with your spouse and gospel-centered community.

APPLICATION [*What do I do with it?*]

Bible study is incomplete until you have thought through how to apply the particular passage to your life. Some passages will be more readily applicable than others, but all Scripture is useful and helpful (**2 Tim. 3:16-17**).

1. List out a number of potential applications. To get started, here are a few questions to consider:
 - Is there an example for you to follow?
 - Is there a sin to repent of and/or avoid?
 - Is there a promise to trust?
 - Is there a prayer to repeat?
 - Is there a command to obey?
 - Is there a condition to meet?
 - Is there a verse to memorize?
 - Is there an erroneous view exposed?
 - What else is the Lord pressing upon you?
2. Choose one or two particular applications and prayerfully consider how you might pursue greater faithfulness in them. Be specific about what you will do (or not do) and whom you will ask (in addition to the Lord) to help you.

KNOW WHAT YOU BELIEVE

Doctrine (Christian belief) is an important subject. Simply put, **doctrine is the foundational truths of the Christian life.**

So what this means is that doctrine fuels a biblical world view. How we live our lives as Christians is dependent upon holding to foundational truths [as you have learned in this material].

God wants us to know His heart and He has given us His Word upon which we can build godly lives. The more we study true doctrine, the more we understand God and ourselves.

The purpose of this study has been to help you build a solid foundation based upon the Word of God so that you may be able to live out these truths.

Our trust in God's Word is based on the premise that God is real, and that He has taken steps to reveal Himself to us. Scripture is our final authority for what we believe and practice.

As we have studied the Scriptures we believe there are key truths that are important and foundational:

Visit redeemersw.com/beliefs to read the Redeemer doctrinal statement.

WHAT DOES EVERY CHRISTIAN NEED TO **KNOW**,
UNDERSTAND, AND **APPLY** IN THEIR LIFE IN ORDER
TO HAVE A *SOLID FOUNDATION*?

In this material, Don and Pat DeJong have helped us answer this question to know how to live out the Christian life with a solid foundation.

Whether you are new in your faith, or want to become more grounded in what you believe, this material is invaluable because in it you will find some of the most basic and important foundations of the Christian faith.

Here at Redeemer we use this material in a group setting as our introduction to the Christian faith. Groups study each chapter during the week and gather together for discussion and further study.

To learn more about Redeemer visit us online at **redeemersw.com**.