Biblical Foundations Small Group Study

Small Group Host Discussion Guide
Introduction

WELCOME TO BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS

Congratulations on making the decision to host a Biblical Foundations small group! In choosing this curriculum, you are giving everyone in your small group an opportunity to grow closer to God in a significant way. Be expectant for great things to happen in the coming weeks.

Biblical Foundations is a 12-week small group study that utilizes a book called *Biblical Foundations*. This book is more commonly known as the “Purple Book.” The goals of Biblical Foundations are:

- To provide an overview of the most important concepts found in Scripture like salvation, lordship, the Holy Spirit, faith, evangelism, and many more.
- To give participants the opportunity to gain greater familiarity with the Bible by looking up and reading multiple passages each week.
- To gain a new perspective on what it means to be a Christian so that our life can be lived with greater purpose and fulfillment.

Because Biblical Foundations gives participants so much exposure to the Word of God, you can expect the people in your small group to encounter God in a powerful way over the next 12 weeks. Whether the people in your group are new to Christ or have been serving Him for years, this study will provide an opportunity to grow deeper in the knowledge and understanding of God’s Word.

Biblical Foundations is the third step in His People Faith City’s “Faith Journey.” We encourage all new members and everybody who has not yet done it to work through it as it is a powerful tool to build strong foundations in your life and to help new persons understand our underlying theology.

PREREQUISITES FOR HOSTING A BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS SMALL GROUP

Because your role as host of Biblical Foundations will require you to facilitate discussion about a wide variety of topics from Scripture, we do recommend that you complete Biblical Foundations first as a participant before you serve as a Host. Your job as a Host will be much easier if you are already familiar with the material in the Purple Book.

One of the biggest concerns that people express about hosting a Biblical Foundations group is whether they will be able to answer all of the questions
people in their group ask about the Bible. If you are feeling this way, take heart – you do not need a seminary degree to host your small group! We will discuss this in greater detail later.

**WHAT IS THE PURPLE BOOK?**

While the little book used in this study may seem nondescript, it actually has an amazing story.

The Purple Book comes from Victory Church, which is located in the Philippines and one of the founding churches of the Every Nation family of churches. Victory Church was started in 1984 when two American pastors, Steve Murrell and Rice Broocks, travelled to Manila for a two-week missions trip. In that brief time, these two pastors experienced a move of God, with more than one hundred Filipino college students receiving Christ.

In response to these salvations, Pastor Steve Murrell decided to remain in the Philippines for a few more weeks to disciple these new believers. God had other plans, and Pastor Steve eventually ended up serving as a full-time missionary to the Philippines for more than 20 years.

From its humble beginnings, Victory Church has grown into one of the greatest stories in the Kingdom of God anywhere in the world. Today, Victory Church has nearly 100,000 members meeting in 14 campuses across the city of Manila. It is truly impacting the entire nation of the Philippines for Christ.

Victory’s approach has always centred on discipleship – the idea that every believer should be equipped to grow into a mature follower of Christ who reaches others with the Gospel. To become an effective disciple, we need to become familiar with the Word of God.

This is where the Purple Book comes in. Pastor Steve & Pastor Rice developed this book as an essential part of their discipleship process. This little book with the funny colour has helped thousands of people get grounded in the basics of the faith. It has subsequently been translated into many other languages including Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, Farsi, and Russian.

So, as you and your group work through this book, know that you are sharing an experience that has impacted thousands of other believers worldwide. Enjoy the journey!
SMALL GROUP HOSTS – KEYS TO SUCCESS

While much of the Biblical Foundations curriculum is similar to other small group studies you may have done in the past, it does have some unique dynamics that you should be aware of as you begin. The following “Keys to Success” outline some things that you can do in your role as a Small Group Host to ensure that your small group members get as much out of this material as possible.

PRAY

The single-most important thing you can do as a small group host during Biblical Foundations is to set aside time regularly to pray for your small group members. Your prayers will help create an environment in your group where the Holy Spirit can speak to the members of your small group as they do the Purple Book and participate in the small group meetings.

ENCOURAGE COMMITMENT

Biblical Foundations employs a two-step process for success:

- First, everyone in the small group completes one chapter of the Purple Book each week on their own time.
- Second, the previous week’s homework is discussed in the weekly small group meeting.

Because of this, Biblical Foundations does require some level of commitment from everyone in the small group in order to bear fruit. A small group member who does very little from the Purple Book, or who sporadically attends the weekly meetings, will not have the opportunity to gain all that this study has to offer.

To help prepare your small group members for this extra level of commitment, it will be helpful to communicate these details to your group before you begin Biblical Foundations. Helping everyone understand up front the importance of committing to the study will help prepare everyone for what lies ahead.

In addition to communicating at the beginning of the semester, you will also need to continue encouraging your group each week. Emphasizing the importance of doing the homework each week, and holding everyone accountable on whether they completed their week’s assignment will help reinforce the importance of commitment.

To help lead by example, you should also plan to complete the Purple Book along with your group members each week, even if you have done the book in
the past. Since God’s Word is infinite, you can expect to get many new insights and revelations the second, third, or even tenth time you complete the Purple Book.

**PREPARING THE LESSON**

As you read through the weekly lesson plans, you will note that one of your responsibilities as a small group host is to develop a brief, 8-10 minute lesson each week to help get your small group members focused on the week’s materials before you begin the discussion questions.

The goal of the weekly lesson is to share some practical examples from your own life about how God has impacted your life in this particular area. For example, in Week 1 when we learn about salvation, you can briefly share how you first came to Christ.

The goal of the lesson is NOT to put together an in-depth teaching that covers all of the points in the week’s homework. Because the people in your group will do the homework before the small group meeting, they will already have learned a lot by searching through the Scriptures on their own time. Your goal in sharing is to refocus their attention on the material so that they can be ready to engage in the discussion questions that follow the lesson.

**IT’S OKAY TO SAY “I DON’T KNOW”**

Over the course of the Biblical Foundations study, the members of your small group will ask many questions about the Scriptures covered in each week’s lessons. The thought of having to answer these questions can be intimidating to many small group hosts.

Here’s the good news – you don’t have to answer every question that is asked of you! There is no expectation whatsoever that you understand the Scriptures so intimately that you can field every question thrown your way.

Instead, when someone asks you a question to which you don’t know the answer, you can simply respond with “I don’t know the answer to that, but let me try to find out.”

If this situation arises in one of your weekly groups, take some time before the next small group meeting to find the answer to the question. Your Site Pastor or a Ministry Team member will be a great resource for you here, so consider them as your first option when someone asks a hard question in your group.
Consider situations like this as an opportunity for you to grow as well – as you work to get answers to your group’s questions, you will learn a lot about the Bible in the process.

UNDERSTAND “ESSENTIAL DOCTRINE”

Biblical Foundations will outline His People Faith City’s beliefs on a wide variety of Biblical topics. At times, some people in your group may express a different opinion from what is stated in the Purple Book and small group materials.

When this happens, remember that interpreting Scripture is an extremely challenging process and that scholars have been earnestly debating many of the points covered in this study for centuries.

As the small group host, you should be comfortable with some level of disagreement among members of your group. Some of the members in your group may come from a different church background and have been taught differently about certain aspects of Scripture. Others may be simply taking on the challenge of embracing what God’s Word has to say for our lives. Whatever the reason, we should look at healthy, respectful disagreement as an opportunity to grow.

When facilitating discussions in your small group, it is important to understand that there are certain Biblical principles that His People Faith City considers “essential” to the Christian faith. In other words, agreement with these principles is critical for every Christian. We cover these essential beliefs in our Step One of Faith Journey – the Welcome Event, and list them below for your reference.

For any issue not considered “essential” doctrine, we can expect some level of disagreement to occur without creating any major issues. This is because these “non-essential” issues are less critical to the foundations of what we believe.

In cases where you have some disagreement among your small group members on essential topics, stand firm on what the Bible says. Consult your Ministry Team Leader if needed. Providing clarity on what the Bible says about these essential truths helps everyone in your group build up their foundations.

In cases where you have some disagreement among your small group members on non-essential topics, encourage them that they are entitled to their opinion, but then challenge them to look at the issue from His People Faith City’s perspective. We absolutely don’t demand or want unquestioning submission to our interpretations of Scripture, but we do believe that a member of our church
will enjoy a greater level of fruitfulness in our church if he or she shares the same set of beliefs as the church as a whole.
Weekly small group discussion guides
WEEK 1 SIN & SALVATION

Preparing for Your Group
- The homework for this week is to complete Chapter 1 of the Purple Book (p. 11-20).
- It is important to remind the members of your small group that they need to complete the homework before the small group lesson, as you will be discussing the homework during the group.
- Take time this week to pray for your group.

Preparing for the Lesson
Chapter 1 starts things off with the most fundamental truths found in the Bible: while we are separated from God by our sin, God sent His Son to bring us back into a relationship with Him. This simple, elegant truth summarizes God’s plan for His Children, and offers us a way out of death and into eternal life with Him.

This week’s lesson provides an excellent opportunity for you to get to know where the members of your group stand spiritually. The topics covered in this lesson will allow everyone to share where they are in relation to Christ’s saving grace.

Be expectant of great things to happen in this week’s lesson. Some will receive Christ for the very first time! Others will receive a deeper understanding and assurance of their salvation. Those who may have walked with God for a longer period of time can benefit from the reminder of all that God has done for them.

As you host your group this week, emphasize the importance of a personal encounter with Christ. Going to Church or doing good things is simply not enough. Each one of us must make a personal decision in faith to receive Christ as Saviour. When this happens, lives are changed – forever!

DURING THE GROUP

Warm-Up

Have you ever received something (a gift, a privilege) that you felt you hadn’t earned or didn’t deserve?

Bible Lesson
Prepare an 8-10 minute overview of this week’s chapter. Include your salvation testimony to inspire your group.
Discussion Questions

• What motivates us to run from God whenever we fall into sin?
• Lesson 1 teaches us that God pursues us with His love when we sin. How can we change the way we view God so that we run to Him when we do something wrong?
• Why does sin cause so much devastation in our lives?
• What did it cost God to send His only son to Earth to die for our sins?
• Why is it impossible for us to earn salvation? What does it mean for us to receive God’s grace?
• Are you secure in your salvation? Have you made a personal decision in faith to receive forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ?

Prayer

• Let everyone know that you are going to lead the group in a simple salvation prayer.
• For those who have never given their lives to Christ, this is a moment for them to receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life in heaven!
• For those who have already made a decision for Christ, this is a moment to express gratitude and appreciation for the incredible gift that God has given us.
• Lead everyone through the following prayer, asking them to repeat after you:

  Lord Jesus, I come to You today a sinner in need of a Saviour. I have failed to obey You and have gone my own way from birth. I choose to turn away from my old life. I ask You to forgive me now and cleanse me. Thank You for shedding Your blood for me at the cross. Thank You for making a way for me to be reconciled to You. I believe that You died, were buried, and rose again so that I might be set free from sin and death. I receive what You did for me now. Thank You God! Amen!

Closing

• If anyone in your group has accepted Jesus for the first time today, take a moment to speak with them after the group. Congratulate them on making the most important decision of their life. Schedule a time to meet with them over the next few days to help them get started on their new life in Christ.
• The church office has “New Believers Packets” that can be given to anyone who accepts Christ for the first time.
• Step 2 of the Growth Track is offered the second Sunday of every month and provides further teaching on the topic of sin and salvation.
• Remind everyone to complete Chapter 2 in the Purple Book this week.
WEEK 2 LORDSHIP & OBEDIENCE

Preparing for Your Group
- The homework for this week is to complete Chapter 2 of the Purple Book (p. 21-29).
- Take time this week to pray for your group.

Preparing for the Lesson
Week 2 contains some of the most powerful truths found in Scripture. Lordship, which is a lifestyle of complete devotion and obedience to God, unlocks so many of God’s blessings for us.

As you lead your group through this week’s discussion, emphasize the point that Lordship is a daily decision. We must all choose to follow and obey Christ every day. Some of the people in your group may have never made this decision before, and will now have the opportunity to come under Lordship for the very first time. For the rest of you, this week will give you the opportunity to be reminded that our commitment to Jesus Christ is day-to-day and moment to moment.

Also, it is important when presenting this week’s material that you emphasize the blessing that comes from a life under Lordship. While obedience does at times require us to make difficult decisions, things always go better when we do things God’s way.

DURING THE GROUP

Warm-Up
Have you ever had to give something up, only to discover afterwards that your life was much better without it?

Bible Lesson
Prepare an 8-10 minute overview of this week’s chapter. Talk about how your life has been impacted and blessed through your own decision to live under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Discussion Questions
- What does the purple book tell us about the meaning of the word “lord”? How is this concept different from the way our culture typically treats authority?
- What does the Bible tell us happens to those who claim to follow Christ but do not obey His commandments?
• What are some of the things that we need to change in our lives to make Jesus Lord?
• What does it mean to make Jesus the Lord of our relationships? How can we continue to witness to those who aren’t saved without being influenced by them to sin?
• Lordship is a lifelong process – we will always find new areas of our lives to turn over to Him. What is one area of your life where God is challenging you right now?

Prayer
• Lead the group in a time of prayer where everyone will have the opportunity to identify an area of their life that is not under the Lordship of Christ.
• Members of the group do not need to confess anything out loud – instead, spend a few moments in silent prayer together so that God can speak to each member of the group.
• Encourage everyone to take these areas of their life and lay them at the cross.
• Close by thanking God for the blessings that come through obedience.

Closing
• Remind everyone to complete Chapter 3 in the Purple Book this week.
• Freedom small groups spend significant time on lordship and obedience. Consider taking your group through Freedom in a future semester.
WEEK 3 REPENTANCE & BAPTISM

Preparing for Your Group
• The homework for this week is to complete Chapter 3 of the Purple Book (p. 30-39).
• Take time this week to pray for your group.

Preparing for the Lesson
Week 3 deals with the critical topics of repentance and water baptism. These concepts build off of what we learned last week when we studied Lordship & Obedience.

Lordship is a daily commitment to obey God’s commands. When we make a decision to live our lives under Lordship, we begin to notice areas of our life that need to change. When the Holy Spirit pinpoints areas of sin in our life, our response is to then repent and turn away from our sin and towards God.

Water baptism is a public commitment to a lifestyle of Lordship and repentance. We undergo the sacrament of water baptism to show the world that we are committed to Christ. Baptism is much more than a public display, however. When we are baptized, we experience the supernatural power of God in our lives to defeat and overcome sin.

DURING THE GROUP

Warm-Up
Have you ever made a dramatic change in your own life (e.g., new job, new city, new hairstyle)? How is your life different as a result?

Bible Lesson
Prepare an 8-10 minute overview of this week’s chapter. Share about your own personal experience with water baptism.

Discussion Questions
• What is the difference between godly sorrow and worldly sorrow?
• If we have truly repented from something, what sort of changes should take place in our lives?
• Last week we learned that Lordship is a lifelong journey. How steps can we take to always remain open to hear from God about areas in our life where we need to obey and repent?
• How does water baptism help us lead a lifestyle of repentance?
• Have you experienced the miracle of water baptism yet? How was your life impacted by this?

Prayer
• Similar to last week, lead everyone in your group through a time of repentance.
• This is not a place where everyone needs to publically repent – instead, provide several minutes of silent prayer where each person can repent before God.
• Thank God for the changed lives that result from our repentance.

Closing
• Encourage anyone in your group who has not yet been water baptized to attend the Step 2 – Essentials class, which takes place on the second Sunday of every month. This class is a requirement for anyone who wants to be baptized.
• If anyone in your small group does get water baptized, invite the entire group to attend so that you can celebrate this momentous occasion!
• Remind everyone to complete Chapter 4 in the Purple Book this week.
WEEK 4 THE HOLY SPIRIT & SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Preparing for Your Group
• The home work for this week is to complete Chapter 4 of the Purple Book (p. 40-47).
• Take time this week to pray for your group.

Preparing for the Lesson
Week 4 deals with one of the most exciting aspects of our Christian walk – our relationship with the Holy Spirit. What an amazing privilege to have God Himself living inside of us, guiding, directing, and using us on a daily basis!

When explaining how the Holy Spirit operates in our lives, it is important to emphasize that every believer can have two separate experiences with the Holy Spirit:
• The first is called the infilling of the Holy Spirit, which comes when we receive our salvation. The Holy Spirit comes and lives inside of us to serve as our Comforter, Teacher, and Guide.
• The second experience is called the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, and happens after we have received our salvation. This second experience is another decision that we make in faith to ask the Holy Spirit to come into our lives and fill us with supernatural power. The purpose of the baptism is so that God can empower us to be a blessing to others.

Also important this week are the connection between the fruit of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit. Fruit of the Spirit is internal – our character becomes more Christ-like as we grow and mature spiritually. The gifts of the Spirit are external – God uses us to bless others with the specific gifts He has given to us. We need to eagerly desire both – the more fruit of the Spirit we have in our lives, the more God will be able to use our gifts of the Spirit to bless others.

It is also important to recognize that the concept of the Holy Spirit is something that defies our intellectual understanding. God is much bigger than us, and we will never be able to fully comprehend Him with our limited capabilities. To receive the most from our relationship with the Holy Spirit, we will often need to step out in faith and receive what Scripture promises us, even if we don’t yet fully understand it. Our ability to understand will come later, after we step out in faith.
DURING THE GROUP

Warm-Up

Describe a close friend who has played an important role in your life. What did you value about your relationship with this person?

Bible Lesson

Prepare an 8-10 minute overview of this week’s chapter. Share about your own personal encounters with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Discussion Questions

• What are some ways that the Holy Spirit helps us in our daily lives? Have you experienced this in your own walk with God?
• How can we better cultivate the fruit of the Spirit in our lives? What specific fruit(s) do you need more of in your life right now?
• Do you know your spiritual gifts? How do you use them to bless others?
• What happens to us when we receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit? How would your life be different if you had access to the supernatural power of God every day?

Prayer

• Lead everyone in your group in a prayer to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
• Have them ask in their own words to be filled with the Holy Spirit so that they can be a blessing to others.
• For anyone who has already received the baptism, emphasize that Scripture tells us to be filled every day, so we are in constant need of a fresh filling.

Closing

• Freedom provides an opportunity to learn more about the Holy Spirit and our relationship with Him. Consider taking your small group through Freedom in a future semester.
• Step 3 – Dream Team Orientation gives us an opportunity to begin the process of discovering our spiritual gifts.
• Remind everyone to complete Chapter 5 in the Purple Book this week.
WEEK 5 SPIRITUAL HUNGER & GOD’S WORD

Preparing for Your Group
- The home work for this week is to complete Chapter 5 of the Purple Book (p. 48-55).
- Take time this week to pray for your group.

Preparing for the Lesson
Week 5 is a perfect follow-up to last week’s lesson on the Holy Spirit. One of the many roles that the Holy Spirit plays in our life is that of Teacher – helping us to understand God’s Word.

As you lead this week, you will of course want to put some emphasis on the importance of spending time each day in God’s Word. To help encourage the people in your group, emphasize to them that when we read the Bible, we are spending time in direct conversation with God. This is no dry, intellectual reading – it is a conversation with the living God! What better way to develop a hunger for God’s Word than to recognize that time spent in the Word is also time spent with Him.

The Bible is truly beyond comparison. No other single piece of writing has made an impact and shaped world history like Scripture. The Bible was written over the course of 1600 years by 40 different authors, yet it tells us the story of God’s plan for our lives. Its very existence is a miracle, and we should pause and give thanks to Him for the precious gift of His Word.

DURING THE GROUP

Warm-Up
Have you ever waited to receive a phone call from someone important who was far away? Describe how it felt to finally speak with your loved one.

Bible Lesson
Prepare an 8-10 minute overview of this week’s chapter. Share about your own love of the Word of God.

Discussion Questions
- What did this week’s chapter tell us are the benefits and impacts of God’s Word in our lives?
- How does God communicate with us through His Word?
- Recognizing that God’s Word is His most important tool for speaking to us – how does that change your attitude towards the Bible?
• What are some methods or techniques that you prefer for reading the Bible regularly?
• Have you ever experienced a spiritual hunger for God’s Word? How can we work to develop a deeper hunger for Scripture?

Prayer
• One of the most powerful ways to pray is to use the Word of God. Speaking Scripture over our lives and our circumstances has great power to bring change.
• Before the group begins, pick a handful of Scriptures that you think will speak to your small group members. They can contribute verses as well.
• Assign verses to different people in the group. As you pray together, ask each person to read their assigned Scripture and to give a quick prayer that addresses whatever their Scripture speaks about.

Closing
• King’s Biblical Institute offers classes each semester for members of His People Faith City who want to learn more about Scripture.
• Our website contains archives of many old sermon series. These are a treasure trove of information and teaching on the Bible.
• Remind everyone to complete Chapter 6 in the Purple Book this week.
WEEK 6 DISCIPLESHIP & LEADERSHIP

Preparing for Your Group
- The homework for this week is to complete Chapter 6 of the Purple Book (p. 56-66).
- Take time this week to pray for your group.

Preparing for the Lesson
Week 6 marks the halfway point in the Foundations curriculum. You are probably already seeing a lot of transformation in your small group members.

This week, we are looking at the importance of discipleship in the life of the believer. A lifestyle of discipleship – one spent in the constant pursuit of God – opens the door to so many of God’s blessings. As you prepare the lesson for this week, be expectant of how your small group’s lives can be transformed through these powerful truths.

When speaking about discipleship, it is important to emphasize the role that other believers play here. We can’t move forward in our relationship with God if we don’t open up our lives to others to encourage and instruct us.

As you lead the group tonight, be sure to share your own testimony of how God has used discipleship in your life. Encourage the members of your group that they have taken an important step in the discipleship process by being a part of a small group.

DURING THE GROUP

Warm-Up
Describe your favourite teacher or coach growing up. What impact did this person have on your life?

Bible Lesson
Prepare an 8-10 minute overview of this week’s chapter. Share about your experience with discipleship and how it has impacted your walk with God.

Discussion Questions
- According to our reading this week, what are some characteristics of a disciple of Christ?
- What does it mean to surrender our lives to God?
• Why is it important for us to focus on developing godly character? How can God use someone with strong character in ways that He can't use someone with poor character?
• Why do we need to have other believers in our life to grow spiritually? What happens when Christians try to pursue God on their own?

Prayer
• This week is about relationships, so praying for your group’s relationships with one another is important.
• Have the small group break off into smaller groups of 2-3 people to pray together for each other and your requests.

Closing
• Step 4 of the Growth Track equips us to become a small group host. Begin to identify those in your group who will be ready to lead a group soon and encourage them to attend.
• Remind everyone to complete Chapter 7 in the Purple Book this week.
WEEK 7 SPIRITUAL FAMILY & CHURCH LIFE

Preparing for Your Group
- The homework for this week is to complete Chapter 7 of the Purple Book (p. 67-77).
- Take time this week to pray for your group.

Preparing for the Lesson
Week 7 covers a broad range of topics about the local church. You will want to touch briefly on each lesson in the chapter.

When leading your group this week, emphasize the importance of spiritual family. Church membership is not simply an affiliation, it is a commitment. Our fellow church members are not just people we see on Sundays – they are some of the most important relationships we have in our lives!

During this week’s discussion, you should also mention that our local church is part of the greater global “Church” that consists of all believers. His People Faith City is just one of many amazing churches in our region and beyond that are advancing God’s Kingdom. While God’s Church includes many local bodies with different styles of worship, we all serve the same God together.

DURING THE GROUP

Warm-Up
Describe the very first time you ever attended church, or if you grew up in church, your first memories of it. How has your perception of church changed since then?

Bible Lesson
Prepare an 8-10 minute overview of this week’s chapter. Share about your experience with spiritual family and what it has meant to you.

Discussion Questions
- What do you think a victorious church looks like? What kind of impact would a victorious church have on its members and on the community?
- How does the concept of the church as a “body” affect the way you look at church?
- What did you learn this week about pastors and elders? How can you support the leadership at your church?
- How does church discipline help keep the church safe and healthy?
- How does communion help us grow closer together as a church?
Prayer
- Take time this week to pray for His People Faith City.
- You can pray specifically for the pastors, various ministries, campuses, etc.
- Pray that everyone in the group will feel closer to their spiritual family.

Closing
- Step 1 – Starting Point of the Growth Track allows us to take the important step of committing to become members of His People Faith City.
- Step 3 – Dream Team Orientation of the Growth Track allows us to discover where we fit in the “Body” by getting involved in one of our many ministries.
- Remind everyone to complete Chapter 8 in the Purple Book this week.
WEEK 8 PRAYER & WORSHIP

Preparing for Your Group
- The homework for this week is to complete Chapter 8 of the Purple Book (p. 78-86).
- Take time this week to pray for your group.

Preparing for the Lesson
Week 8 is about prayer – our ability to have a conversation with the living God.

Prayer is one of the most misunderstood aspects of our Christian walk. It is all too easy for us to turn prayer into a lifeless exercise, or to simply ignore it altogether. However, when we come to the realization that the Creator of the Universe wants to talk with us every day, our perspective on prayer changes entirely!

As you share this week, be sure to include your own personal perspective on prayer and the role it plays in your life. At the same time, don’t try to force your preferred methods of prayer onto your group members. Emphasize that each one of us will pray differently, as we all have different personalities and temperaments. The key to successful prayer is in finding the style and approach that works best for you.

This week, we encourage you to keep the lesson on prayer brief so that you can spend more time with your group praying.

DURING THE GROUP

Warm-Up
What sort of things do you love to talk about? With whom do you most enjoy discussing these things?

Bible Lesson
Prepare a 5-6 minute overview of this week’s chapter. Talk about the role that prayer plays in your life.

Discussion Questions
- What does the Bible tell us about the power of prayer? How might prayer be able to bring change to your life and your circumstances?
- Why is corporate prayer so important for us as believers? What happens when we join in prayer with others?
• What kinds of things did Paul pray for? Is his approach similar or different to the way that you pray?
• How do you like to pray? What works well for you?
• How is worship connected with prayer? How can we incorporate more worship into our daily prayer life?

Prayer
• Emphasize the importance of praying together this week as a group.
• Develop an approach to get everyone in your group to pray. You may want to take the group’s requests and assign them to various members of the group so that all can get involved.
• Be led by the Holy Spirit – believe for breakthrough in your group!

Closing
• Friday Night Prayer and Worship gives us all an excellent opportunity to experience corporate prayer together.
• The Prayer Team is a great place for individuals to serve who are looking for an opportunity to grow in their prayer lives. You can attend Step 3 of the Growth Track (Dream Team Orientation) to get involved.
• His People Faith City has designed a prayer track for our small group curriculum – we have several excellent studies in place to help your group grow in this area.
• Remind everyone to complete Chapter 9 in the Purple Book this week.
WEEK 9 FAITH & HOPE

Preparing for Your Group
• The home work for this week is to complete Chapter 9 of the Purple Book (p. 87-96).
• Take time this week to pray for your group.

Preparing for the Lesson
Week 9 goes into great detail about the concept of faith. Faith is something that is only possible through our relationship with Jesus Christ. When we begin to “see” the world the way God does, it unlocks a new level of purpose and blessing in our lives.

When sharing about faith with your small group, it is probably easiest to share stories from your own life that show how God has challenged you to walk in faith through challenging circumstances.

One important clarification about the connection between faith and hope.
• Hope is a general desire for something good. For example, “I hope to be able to own a home someday.”
• Faith is a response to something that God has specifically told us that He wants to do in our lives. For example, “God is telling us to buy this specific house.”

These two concepts are often confused. It is common for Christians to take something they want, which is hope, and try to make it happen without waiting for God to speak to them about it. Often, we will run off and do our own thing, all the while asking God to bless our plans. For example “I want to buy a home, and even though God hasn’t spoken to me about this, I’m going to go ahead and do it. God, please bless me with the house I want.”

Another common mistake is to treat faith like hope. God may speak to us about something He wants us to do, but rather than obeying in faith, we sit back and do nothing. For example, “God told me to buy this specific house, but I am afraid to make that kind of commitment. I’m just going to wait until God miraculously gives me that house for free.”

Clarifying the difference between faith and hope will be extremely helpful to many in your group, as these concepts are often misunderstood.
DURING THE GROUP

Warm-Up

Are you the kind of person who loves taking risks, or are you more cautious? Share an example of a big risk you took that paid off for you.

Bible Lesson

Prepare an 8-10 minute overview of this week’s chapter. Talk about the role that faith plays in your life.

Discussion Questions

• How does faith set us apart from the way that unbelievers live their lives?
• How did we use faith when we accepted Jesus as our Saviour?
• How does a lack of faith displease God? Why is faith so important to our relationship with Him?
• Why is obedience a critical component of faith? What happens if God tells us to do something, and we respond by doing nothing?

Prayer

• Lead everyone in a time of declaration where everyone can pray about an area of their life where they are walking in faith.
• Encourage everyone that speaking out or writing out our faith goals helps bring us into agreement with God’s will for our lives.
• This can be done in a group, in pairs, or even silently, depending on what fits best with your group.

Closing

• Remind everyone to complete Chapter 10 in the Purple Book this week.
WEEK 10 BIBLICAL PROSPERITY & GENEROSITY

Preparing for Your Group

- The homework for this week is to complete Chapter 10 of the Purple Book (p. 97-104).
- Take time this week to pray for your group.

Preparing for the Lesson

Chapter 10 talks about the role of money and possessions in the life of the believer. The Purple Book does an excellent job showing us that these things are not inherently evil, but that the love of money or desire of possessions is a major temptation that can get in the way of our relationship with God.

As you share this week, recognize that some people in your group may have never heard the Biblical perspective on finances. They may have only learned about how to deal with money from a worldly perspective, or they may come from a religious background that teaches that Christians shouldn’t have any money. This week will be an opportunity for God’s truth to penetrate our hearts and minds so that we can steward our finances in a way that brings glory to God.

DURING THE GROUP

Warm-Up

What was the first job you ever had? What valuable lessons (if any) did you learn from that experience?

Bible Lesson

Prepare an 8-10 minute overview of this week’s chapter. Share some things that God has taught you about being a good steward.

Discussion Questions

- What are some of the dangers of wealth described in the Bible?
- What is the Bible’s definition of prosperity? What does it look like to be “wealthy” in God’s eyes?
- How is giving a tithe an act of obedience? How does it help us steward our finances in a godly way?
- What does Biblical generosity look like? Why does God encourage us to be generous?
- What kind of a giver are you (p. 104)? How would you like to grow in your giving in the near future?
Prayer
- Ask members of the group to share a financial need that they would like the group to pray for.
- Pray together as a group for every need. Use Scripture from Chapter 10 to speak the will of God over each of these situations.

Closing
- Crown Financial is a small group study that goes in depth into the principles covered in this week’s lesson. Consider leading your group through Crown in the future.
- Remind everyone to complete Chapter 11 in the Purple Book this week.
WEEK 11 EVANGELISM & WORLD MISSIONS

Preparing for Your Group
- The homework for this week is to complete Chapter 11 of the Purple Book (p. 105-114).
- Take time this week to pray for your group.

Preparing for the Lesson
Chapter 11 is a powerful encouragement for all of us about our divine purpose as Christians. God created each and every one of us with gifts and talents that He wants to use for great things.

God’s plan is for His Children to make disciples so that the entire world can be reached with the Gospel. This is called the Great Commission. Often, as Christians, we think that it is the role of a few select pastors to do this. But Scripture shows us that we are all assigned to share our faith with others. Most excitingly, the Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit will give us the power and insight necessary to be able to do this!

As you share this week, recognize that you have the opportunity to plant some seeds in your small group’s hearts and minds. God has great plans for each person in your group, and He wants to use you to encourage them about this!

As you share, be encouraged yourself, because as a small group host, you are already doing a lot to fulfill God’s commands to make disciples.

DURING THE GROUP

Warm-Up
Talk about someone who played a major role in bringing you to Christ. What qualities did this person have that helped connect you to God?

Bible Lesson
Prepare an 8-10 minute overview of this week’s chapter. Talk about your own experiences in sharing about Christ to others.

Discussion Questions
- The Bible tells us that everyone is a minister. How do you feel about this? Do you see yourself as a minister?
- According to the Bible, how can the Holy Spirit help us minister to others?
- Have you ever run into any conflict when trying to share your faith with others? How did God help you in that situation?
• Are you excited at the thought that you could see God perform miracles for others through your prayers?
• What can we do to bring the Gospel not only to our community, but to the nations of the world?

Prayer
• Focus your efforts this week on praying for others, specifically those who are lost.
• Lift up needs in our local community and take time to pray for the nations. You may want to focus on one particular nation if it is close to your heart.

Closing
• His People Faith City is dedicated to helping our local community. Contact our office for more details about the community outreaches we are involved in and upcoming short term outreach events.
• Remind everyone to complete Chapter 12 in the Purple Book this week.
WEEK 12 RESURRECTION & JUDGEMENT

Preparing for Your Group
- The homework for this week is to complete Chapter 12 of the Purple Book (p. 115-125).
- Take time this week to pray for your group.

Preparing for the Lesson
This week, the Purple Book finishes by looking at the events surrounding Christ’s return. We will learn about what we have to look forward to as Christians. How incredible to know that we will spend an eternity in the presence of God, no longer burdened by sin or suffering!

This topic can often be challenging to grasp, especially because there are many different interpretations out there of what Christ’s Second Coming will look like. As you share this week, emphasize the important fact that Christ’s return is something that we as believers can look forward to. It is a source of hope and encouragement for us, knowing that we will be on the victorious side, ruling and reigning with Christ and seeing evil defeated once and for all.

DURING THE GROUP

Warm-Up
What has been the most powerful thing that you’ve learned in this small group study? How has God brought change to your life over the last few weeks?

Bible Lesson
Prepare an 8-10 minute overview of this week’s chapter. Share what excites you about Christ’s second coming and our eternity in heaven.

Discussion Questions
- The Bible tells us that we should not fear death. What does Scripture tell us will happen to all Christians when Christ returns?
- How does the judgment of sinners differ from the judgment of saints?
- In the end times, we will have to give an account to God for the way that we lived our lives as Christians. How does this affect the decisions you make today?
- Where do those who reject Christ spend eternity? What does a knowledge of hell do to motivate us to share the Gospel with others?
- How does the Bible describe heaven? How does an understanding of where we are going help us deal with difficult challenges today?
Prayer
• Close this study with a final blessing on the group. Ask that the lessons learned from God’s Word would penetrate your hearts and that God will continue to transform your lives through these truths.
• Thank God for the precious gift of an eternity with Him in heaven. Pray for unsaved friends and family, that they would have an opportunity to receive Christ.

Closing
• Let everyone know your upcoming plans for the small group. Be sure to communicate your plans for to your Site Pastor / ministry team member too.