

# Foundation Study Series

## Overview

God wants all to be saved and, thus, calls us through His Gospel and convicts us through His Spirit of our sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8). The 3,000 converts at Pentecost, the Ethiopian eunuch, the Philippian Jailer, Cornelius the Centurion, Lydia, even Paul provide us paradigms for this convicting journey from darkness to light. As we observe their journeys we often find a SEEKER exposed by the Spirit regarding his SIN, true RIGHTEOUSNESS, and impending JUDGMENT. Once thoroughly convicted, a seeker has nowhere to go but to trust in Jesus' GRACE, he is moved to REPENTANCE which leads to FORGIVENESS. The promise of salvation also includes both the indwelling of the HOLY SPIRIT and the fellowship of the CHURCH. For example in Acts 2, Peter and the other brothers encounter a large gathering of Jews...

- Seeking God through the festival of Pentecost.
- Upon hearing the gospel, many were cut to heart with their need for reconciliation to God. Peter offers them a solution for their sins and their resultant separation from God.
- Those that believed the message of grace were compelled by the cross...
- To repent...
- And be baptized for the forgiveness of their sins (salvation).
- They also realized Peter's promise that they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- These early converts joined together in fellowship daily as the first Church in the New Testament.

Peter, the other Apostles, and the 3,000 added to their number that day all realized why Jesus had instructed

The following Bible studies are designed to be a flexible tool to aid the seeker along this journey. While every true seeker arrives at the same destination, all begin from unique starting points. Along the way, different Scriptures may prove more applicable and effective. Please make the effort to memorize all the scriptures which might be applied to facilitate a seeker's path to salvation.

Of course, God always has the final Word: "All Scripture is God breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

# Foundation Study Series

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## Seeking God

### Purpose

Seeking God is a study to clarify what it takes to pursue a relationship with God. While this study will clear up many misconceptions, it can likewise provide great inspiration for one to wholeheartedly seek our Lord and God. In some cases, you may need to share these scriptures with a seeker who has become complacent along the path in his/her search.

### Study

#### Matthew 7:7 and Matthew 7:13-14

One of the great promises of the bible: everyone who seeks finds! Plus, one of the great warnings in the bible: only a few will find. If only a few find God, then how many actually seek Him?

#### Luke 13:22-30

Yes, only a few will be saved; therefore, make every effort to seek. Those who simply 'try' will be caught off guard by their rejection from the kingdom of God. How can you make every effort to seek Him? These efforts should help develop and increase your faith in Jesus. Why is it so dangerous to simply 'try'?

#### Matthew 6:25-33

The greatest enemy of best is good. What good things can distract you from seeking God as your first priority? What changes must you make in order to make God's kingdom and righteousness your top priority?

#### Matthew 13:44-46

Finding God is like finding a great treasure or a valuable pearl. Is it a joy for you to sacrifice everything in exchange for God's grace? Do you really understand and believe the trade off?

#### Acts 8:26-35

Here's an example of a seeker who humbly puts God first, thus finding Him and finding great joy. Take note that the Ethiopian Eunuch was: a busy man, a man who needed a disciple's help to seek God, a man who used the bible as his guide to finding God, a man who was eager to be baptized.

### Additional Scriptures

Acts 17:10-11

Jeremiah 29:10-13

Deuteronomy 4:28-31

Daniel 9:3

Hebrews 11:6

1 Timothy 4:7-8

Acts 17:22-27

2 Chronicles 15:1-4

### Purpose

Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ (Romans 10:17). Thus, the aim of studying the Word of God is to help a seeker build faith in Jesus. One must accept the bible as the one true standard (vs. feelings, experiences, peers' opinions, or family traditions) by which to live life if one is to know true salvation from Jesus.

### Study

#### 2 Timothy 3:16-17

The bible is highly useful; use it to train in righteousness. Have you trained for anything in life? What principles of training ensure success? The bible thoroughly equips us; thus, it is all we need to seek a righteous life filled with every good work. Man's traditions cannot improve the Word as it equips and guides us.

#### Hebrews 4:12-13

In the final analysis, we will give a full accounting to God. We won't be able to hide anything from Him. Thus, why is it so important to apply the Word to our life now? What can the Word do? How does penetrating power of the Word benefit us?

#### 1 Timothy 4:15-16

Life and doctrine are both important. What is the result of neglecting one or both? What is the result of persevering in both? Discuss principles of bible study that will produce correct doctrine. Suggest ways to put the bible's teaching into practice.

#### John 8:31-32

How are these particular Jews described? Is belief sufficient if it is not accompanied by obedience? Who are really Jesus' disciples? How will you know the truth? How will you be set free?

#### John 12:47-48

Take note of Jesus' purpose for coming to you. The Word will judge us if we reject it. Rejecting the Word is equated with rejection of Jesus and his salvation.

#### Acts 17:10-11

A noble response to God's Word is an eager examination of it everyday! This is a great challenge to issue to any seeker! Suggest studying a gospel this week to know Jesus better.

### Additional Scriptures:

John 7:17

Matthew 13:1-23

2 Peter 3:16

Mark 7:6-9

John 8:31-32

James 1:22-25

2 Timothy 2:15

1 Thessalonians 2:13

Psalms 119:60

2 Timothy 4:2-3

Ezekiel 33:30-33

Jude 3

1 Corinthians 4:4

2 Peter 1:19-21

Proverbs 3:5

Proverbs 14:12

Proverbs 16:2

Proverbs 28:26

Proverbs 30:5-6

Proverbs 28:9

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## Discipleship of Jesus

### Purpose

The Holy Spirit comes to “convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment” (John 16:8). The Holy Spirit helps us See Our Need. Through His scriptures on Discipleship, He convicts us concerning Righteousness. Thus, these Scriptures should: clear up common misconceptions about following Jesus, convict us of our rejection of true discipleship, and inspire us to answer the true call of Jesus.

### Study

#### Acts 11:25-26

How many times is the word Christian used in NT? How many times is the word disciple used? How would you define the word “disciple” non-religiously? If you asked someone on the street, “Are you a Christian,” what would be the typical answer? How about being a disciple? Why the difference among synonyms? How can we use the Bible to define “Christian?”

#### Luke 9:23-27

Emphasize the heart that God wants. What are the three demands of discipleship? What does it mean to “deny yourself?” What does it mean to “take up your cross daily?” How can we be “ashamed of Jesus and His words?” What is the consequence of this shame?

#### Luke 9:57-62

Examine the issues involved with each person - thoughtless following, excuse making, and second thoughts. Note the parallel between “follow me” and “preach everywhere the kingdom of God.”

#### Luke 13:22-27

Does Jesus answer the question? What’s the difference for you between trying and making every effort? Why are the rejected seekers surprised?

#### Mark 1:16-20

What is the invitation? Which is easier to do, catch a fish or catch a man for God? Even fishing needs input. Following Jesus, being taught, discipled, trained for his mission... are you involved in that process? If you are not fishing for men, are you following Jesus?

#### Matthew 28:18-20

The Great Commission: God’s plan to save the world. Which would you rather have a penny doubled daily for a month or \$1,000 a day for a month? Likewise, a multiplying chain of disciples best achieves the mission.

#### Matthew 22: 34-40

The Greatest Commandment! How can you better love God and neighbors? (Hint: He who has been forgiven much will love much...)

### Additional Scriptures:

Luke 14:25-35

Matthew 10:26-39

Matthew 7:21-27

Matthew 25:31-46

Colossians 3:13

Luke 11:1-4

### Purpose

While we want all seekers to be saved by grace, there is no grace if we perceive no sin. Of course, all have sinned (Romans 3:23); therefore, we all desperately need the grace of God (Romans 6:23). Thus, the aim of this study is to help seekers see themselves as our Holy God sees them: utterly sinful and separated from our God. This realization brings about a desire for both forgiveness and repentance. Pray for the Holy Spirit to convict seekers in this study (John 16:8).

### Study

#### Romans 3:23 and Romans 6:23

See comments above.

#### Luke 7:36-50

Jesus is a bridge between your sin and your potential for love. The more you appreciate your sinful indebtedness to Jesus; the more you will be grateful for his grace. The end result: you love much (i.e. Discipleship). Conversely, the less you appreciate your sinful indebtedness, the smaller your gratitude and the less you love. Is your attitude toward your sin more like Simon's or more like the sinful woman's? Suggest some practicals to get in touch with your sinful indebtedness: Study specific sins as detailed by the Bible. Consider the most recent time you committed that sin; consider the first time; consider your attitude towards God each time you indulged that sin. Journals/discussions/ time lines all help increase one's appreciation of our debt through sin.

#### Mark 7:21-22

Take ownership for sin! We are responsible for our own sin. Despite genetics, parenting, peer pressures, and socio-economic conditions, sin comes from within our own hearts and makes us unclean. What is the consequence of being unclean before God? Discuss the sins cataloged by Jesus. Add scriptures, which catalog sins - if needed.

#### Galatians 5:19-21

Sinful deeds are obvious. What does "will not inherit the Kingdom of God" mean? Be as specific as necessary to both explain and share about the sins listed.

#### Ephesians 5:3-13

Not even a hint or a mention of sin should be the standard for followers of Jesus. Has anyone ever shared "empty words" with you in order to minimize God's wrath to sin and sinners? Exposing sin to the light is a great step toward proclaiming a real need for grace.

#### James 4:17

Sins of commission (sins you commit) vs. sins of omission (virtues you omit).

#### Isaiah 59:1-3

Your sin has made a separation between you and your God. This study is not just about a list of sins, but instead about the depth of your separation from your Father.

### Additional Scriptures:

Revelation 21:8

Revelation 21:24-27

Romans 1:21-32

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Colossians 3:5-11

2 Timothy 3:1-5

Matthew 5:48

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## Cross of Grace

### Purpose

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." (John 3:16-17)

Here, the gospel message reaches its peak. We are saved through grace. There is hope! We are saved through Jesus' loving sacrifice. Be sure that the seeker has seen his/her need for grace, and this study in grace will be powerful. It's also important for the seeker to understand his/her responsibility for Jesus' death. Establishing personal responsibility will later reap great gratitude and joy for Jesus' personal love and forgiveness.

### Study

#### Romans 3:21-27

All are in complete need of grace for all have sinned. Christ is propitiation or atonement (temple illustration) for the wrath we've earned. He redeems (slavery illustration) us; he justifies (legal illustration) us. Discuss the illustrations.

#### Romans 4:22-25

We have Jesus' righteousness credited to us via faith. Jesus died for our sins and was raised for our justification. He takes our sins and gives His righteousness!

#### Romans 5:6-11

Jesus died for us while we were at our worst, enemies of God, weak and sinful. His blood changes all that and reconciles us to God.

#### Mark 14:26-15:41

Jesus chose to die for us. Who killed Jesus? I did. You did. Reflect on the reasons why Jesus endures these afflictions (my sins require it, and His love offers it).

#### 1 Peter 2:21-25

Why did Jesus die on the cross for us? So that we might die to sin and live for the new righteousness that the cross provides. This is our response to the cross.

#### Acts 2:36-41

Peter has preached the message of the cross. What are the next steps?

#### John 3:16-21

Do you prefer the darkness over the light? Are you ready to move into the light of God's grace?

### Additional Scriptures:

Isaiah 52-53

Psalms 22

Acts 2:22-38

Colossians 2:13-14

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 1:29

# Foundation Study Series

## Repentance

### Purpose

After believing grace, the biblical response is to repent and be baptized for forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:36-38). Repentance, however, is a powerful blessing from God that has been stripped of its potency. The Greek word for repentance, metanoia, means “after – mindset.” With this gift of ‘hindsight,’ we see clearly to take the right path... the path of living for God rather than for self. Be careful not to present repentance as a work that leads to salvation; rather, it is our awakening to come to our senses and live the way God had always intended for us. It is more than a decision; it is God allowing us to see a new worldview, which always results in the fruit of a turned, changed life.

### Study

#### 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

Why does Peter call us to repent as a response to the cross (Acts 2:38)? Because we are convinced of Jesus’ love for us through the cross. His love motivates us to repent; that is, to live for Him rather than for ourselves. Jesus’ resurrection opens our eyes to look beyond the earthly realm. The old is gone, the new has come! What does the new life look like? How do we view people through our new repentant eyes?

#### Luke 3:7-14

The fruit of repentance is the evidence of a changed mindset. John the Baptist insisted on repentance before baptism. If you were to ask John, “What should I do?” – how would he respond to you? (Notice that he directs no one to pray and weep before God, confessing how bad he or she feels about his or her sins – which many people today confuse for repentance.)

#### Luke 13:1-9

Jesus preaches that without repentance, we will all perish. He likewise expects to find fruit every time there is true repentance.

#### Acts 26:15-21

Jesus gives Paul the charge to “open their eyes” (e.g. the “red pill” of the Matrix or the Christmas ghosts for Scrooge) so that “they may turn” and prove their repentance by their deeds. Repentance involves a new perspective, a turning of allegiance, and fruit.

#### 2 Corinthians 7:8-11

Beware of worldly sorrow. Have you previously confused sorrow(s) with true repentance? Thoroughly examine godly sorrow, because it leads to repentance and salvation.

#### 2 Timothy 2:24-26

Has God already opened your eyes via the Scriptures? Can you now see the truth? Then it’s time to escape the devil’s snares. God wants you to be set free from that captivity. Do not neglect this gift that God grants us.

### Additional Scriptures:

Luke 16:19-31

Acts 3:19-20

Acts 28:25-28

Romans 12:1-2

Romans 2:4

Acts 5:30-31

Acts 11:18

Luke 19:1-10

Luke 18:18-30

Colossians 2:20-23

Titus 2:11-12

Luke 15:1-2

Luke 15:11-32

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## Repentance for Teens

### Purpose

The response to the gospel is to repent and be baptized for forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:36-38). The Greek word for repentance, meta-noia, means “after – mindset.” With this gift of a new mindset or worldview, we see clearly to take the right path... the path of living for God rather than for self. Be careful to discern an outward compliance to parental or church expectations vs. an awakening to come to our senses and live the way God had always intended for us. It is more than a decision and more than conforming to the teen ministry; it is God providing a new worldview, which always results in the fruit of a turned, changed life. Every teen faces the temptation to give the “right” answers rather than “real” answers as they pursue repentance. This study is designed to first assess their “real” –noia and guide them towards the “right”-noia.

### Study

#### Romans 12:2

The first step in changing your worldview (or noia) is to assess your current worldview. Take a ruthless and candid inventory of how you make sense of the world. Time to be raw rather than right:

- How do you win at the game of life? By what rules do you play the game? What’s your strategy for winning? How do you know whether you are winning or losing? (ex: “my parents aren’t hassling me” or “the teen ministry thinks I’m committed” or “my grades are good enough for college admission” or “my classmates think I’m all that and a bag of chips”)
- The world has invested countless hours to effectively conform or shape your mind to its mold. How have television shows, movies, friends, and teachers influenced the way you view: your purpose, morality, truth, God, sin, dating, family, community, and the meaning of life? Does your mindset more closely match Jesus’ mindset or the mindset of your culture? How do you need to transform and renew your mind (meta-noia) in these areas?

#### Luke 3:7-14

John confronts a religious crowd (and you are part of a religious crowd!). What did the crowd want John to do for them? Why were their motives for getting baptized off track?

- Have you ever had questionable motives for getting baptized... what were they?
- Based on John’s remarks, the crowd had pointed to their relationship with Abraham as a source of security; what’s wrong with “playing the game of life” by those rules? Have you ever put your trust in your family or in your participation in the teen ministry rather than in your repentance? What would John say about that strategy? What needs to happen instead?
- How will John know that people in this crowd have repented? How will you and I know that you have repented? What’s the difference between metanoia and the fruit of metanoia? How are they inseparable?
- Notice that John tells seekers what the fruit of their repentance should be – in some cases he tells them to start doing something, and other cases he tells them to stop doing something. If you were to ask John, “What should I do?” - what one thing would he tell you to both start doing and stop doing to prove your repentance? Why would that be good evidence of your metanoia? What rules in the “game of life” would need to change if you started bearing this fruit?



# Foundation Study Series

## Repentance for Teens

- Have you really repented if you change your behavior without changing your heart and mindset? Said another way, have you really repented if you simply change the way you play the game without changing the rules to game? Repentance changes all the rules (i.e. living for Jesus rather than for self, pleasing God rather than people, fearing God rather than man, etc.). When those rules change, your life cannot help but show it.
- What's the consequence of not bearing the good fruit of repentance? What's the consequence if you do repent and bear the good fruit of that repentance? What would keep you from that sweet reward?

### Mark 10:17-27 vs. Luke 19:1-10

Two rich men seek out Jesus. Read both stories and then consider the contrast between these two seekers:

- What did the "rich young ruler" do right in seeking Jesus? What have you done right? What was wrong about his approach "to inherit eternal life?" Why didn't he repent? What keeps you from repenting? Can you repent by trying to "check the next box" or "jump through the next hoop" – why not? When Jesus perceives this approach to repentance in this seeker, what challenge does He issue? What were the limits to this seeker's trust? What are the limits to your trust in Jesus? As Jesus looks at you with love, what challenge does He issue to you? If you walk away sad, what will you lose? If you lose all for Jesus, what will you gain? What keeps you from letting go of that anchor that will sink your pursuit of Jesus?
- What did Zacchaeus do right in seeking Jesus? How can you imitate him? (Get practical, even talk about implementing these applications today.) If the Rich Young Ruler had a minimalist attitude ("how much must I do to inherit eternal life" – i.e. what's the minimum requirement for eternal life), then how would you characterize Zacchaeus' attitude? Do you picture his face as fallen or uplifted? What makes him appear to be so zealous and joyful? Both men were rich, what separates them as they both encounter Jesus? Which man is better off today?

### Acts 4:32-37 vs. 5:1-11

Another contrast... Barnabas vs. Ananias&Sapphira. All seek to support the cause of Christ through the His church. However, God can always spot a poser:

- Describe the church you encounter in this passage. Would you like to be part of the church you see in Acts 4; how about Acts 5 - why or why not? Joseph gains respect through his sacrifice; have you ever been praised for something that you've done for the ministry? How did that make you feel? How do you think Ananias&Sapphira felt towards Joseph? Have you ever felt competitive toward another teen? Tell me about that. What were the rules of the game that caused you to get competitive? How can you rewrite those rules?
- What were the rules of the game for Ananias&Sapphira? How do your rules for playing the game of life share similarities with their rules? What sacrifice did they make for the church? How have you made sacrifices for the church? Why didn't they "win" at the game they were playing? How can you win the real game that God wants you to play?

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## Repentance for Teens

### 2 Corinthians 7:8-11

Paul helps the Corinthian church to repent by sharply reproofing them through a confrontational letter. God wants everyone to repent; thus, He will also reprove, expose, and rebuke you. The big question... how will you respond? One response leads to death while the other leads to repentance and salvation! (Chapters 8 & 9 - "Worldly Sorrow Brings Death" and "Godly Sorrow Produces Repentance" - of Repentance are useful as a reading assignment for this study.)

- Of the characters that we've just studied, who have exhibited worldly sorrow? Have you ever been sorry for something? Have you ever been sorry and not changed? Beware of these symptoms of worldly sorrow: self pity, damage control, selective change, defensiveness (i.e. excuses). Discuss these within the context of a recent reproof. It's vital to expose all excuses and victimization strategies that undermine repentance. How could you respond differently?
- What are the characteristics of godly sorrow? (The definitions in Chapter 9 are quite helpful for this study). How have the characters (and other great examples that you can share) whom we've studied exhibited godly sorrow? Where did this response lead them? How long does godly sorrow last (see. Verse 8)? How does (discuss each one in the list separately) \_\_\_\_\_ [earnestness, eagerness, indignation, fear, longing, zeal, readiness for justice] produce repentance?

### Acts 3:19-20

What's the beauty of repentance? It's time to return to your Father. He's waiting!

# Foundation Study Series

## Baptism

### Purpose

After preaching about the cross, Peter calls his hearers to repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). This study helps establish the link between Christ's sacrifice and our forgiveness of sins by means of baptism.

### Study

#### Colossians 1:13-14

What is salvation or redemption? It's the forgiveness of sins by the blood of Jesus.

#### Acts 2:36-41

When do we receive the forgiveness of sins? Baptism is for the forgiveness of sins, because it is our connection to Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. Those who accepted this message were baptized, thus they were saved (note the parallel in v. 47).

#### Romans 6:1-4

We are baptized into Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. (Thus, Peter directed his hearers to be baptized in response to the cross – Act 2:38). We, too, will be raised to a new life through baptism. Thus, we are born again.

#### 1 Peter 3:18-21

#### Acts 22:7-16

After encountering Jesus, repenting, praying, fasting (see Acts 9:9-11), being healed, and being called by God, Paul still remains in sin until he is baptized. He calls on the name of the Lord at his baptism. Have you made Jesus the Lord of your life? Then... "What are waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away!"

### Additional Scriptures:

John 3:3-5

John 13:6-11

Titus 3:3-5

Colossians 2:11-14

Acts 8:26-40

Acts 18:24-26

Hebrews 10:22

Ephesians 4:4-6

Ephesians 5:26

Galatians 3:23-27

Mark 16:16

# Foundation Study Series

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## Holy Spirit

### Purpose

Encourage the seeker that he/she will indeed receive the gift of God's Holy Spirit. After baptism, we are sustained by the help of the Spirit. He works powerfully in the life of every baptized disciple of Christ. You may want to combine this study with a study of the Church, as both gifts (the Spirit and the Church) from God help us hold fast to our confession to the end.

### Study

#### Acts 2:36-38

Notice the harmony with John 3:5 and Titus 3:5 (perhaps from a previous study on baptism). At baptism, we are born again via water and the Spirit. As we are made holy by Jesus' blood, we are also filled with the Holy Spirit.

#### John 7:37-39

After Jesus' glorification (crucifixion and resurrection), God sent His Spirit to flow from within us like streams of running water. Previously (OT), the Spirit came upon people. Now, He dwells within us.

#### John 16:5-11

The Spirit convicts us (and the world) with regard to sin, righteousness, and judgment. He does this abundantly through His Word, which He gave to the Apostles as they were guided into all truth (John 16:13).

#### Ephesians 3:14-21

We are strengthened with real power through the Spirit who dwells within us. Understanding Jesus' amazing love for us is a source of that strength.

#### Romans 8:5-16

A powerful statement on the Spirit's role in our Christian walk. A Spiritual mindset brings life and peace, and obedience to God's word. Be secure that the Spirit of Christ dwells in you, thus you belong to Him. The Spirit leads us into freedom from fear to confirm God as our Father.

#### Galatians 5:22-23

The fruit of the Spirit! Expect it. Pursue it. This is the best 'evidence' that you have received the Holy Spirit.

### Additional Scriptures:

John 14:16-18  
1 Samuel 16:13  
1 Samuel 19:18-24  
Acts 2:1-4  
Acts 8:16  
Acts 10:44-45  
Luke 1:15

John 10:41  
Exodus 4:5  
1 Kings 17:24  
Mark 16:20  
Acts 14:3  
Hebrews 2:4  
Acts 8:18

Romans 1:11  
Romans 12:4-8  
1 Corinthians 2:1-5  
1 Corinthians 12:4-11  
1 Corinthians 13:8-12  
Acts 6:3-6

### Purpose

Encourage the seeker that each will not be left to fend for one's self after baptism. Instead, Jesus baptizes us into the body, the church (1 Corinthians 12:12-13) to be joined by a team of like-minded disciples in our devotion to Him. These brothers and sisters are meant to be a continual source of encouragement in our walk with Christ. Even more good news!

### Study

#### Acts 2:40-47

The first 3,000 converts joined together in devotion to the Apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer. A beautiful view of the early church. How would such a church be received today?

#### 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

The Spirit baptizes us into the body of Jesus, his church. The church consists of distinct yet unified parts, just like a human body. God, Himself, has arranged it this way. We are the church; each of us must actively look for the distinct yet unified ways we are to support this body. How will you help build up the body of Christ?

#### Ephesians 4:1-16

Making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the church requires humility, patience, gentleness, and selflessness. We maintain unity on the essentials of doctrine – one Lord, one faith, one baptism. God provides specific offices within the church in order to prepare us for works of service which build up the body.

#### Hebrews 10:22-25

After being washed in baptism, we need the continual exhortations of brothers and sisters to stay the course. Prepare in advance how you will spur on fellow Christians in the fellowship. Also prepare to receive biblical input that will result in greater love and good deeds. Why is missing meetings of the body described as a bad habit? Why and when do we meet?

#### Hebrews 3:12-14

We each have the charge and the responsibility to see to it that no one has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from God. Daily encouragement helps everyone stand firm until the end.

#### 2 Corinthians 8:7

God loves a cheerful giver. Our giving supports the body as we reach out to a world in need of Jesus.

### Additional Scriptures:

1 John 1:5-10

Ephesians 2:19-20

Romans 12:4-8

John 17:20-26

Colossians 1:18

Colossians 2:18-19

John 13:34-35

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## Fear of God

### Purpose

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge (Proverb 1:7). Fear of God clears and cleans (Psalm 19:9) our thoughts so we can focus on what matters most. Despite our culture's aversion to a "fear of the Lord," Scripture tells us it's the key to knowing Him, lacking nothing (Ps 34:9), protection (Ps 60:4), love (Ps 103:11,17), blessings (Ps 115:13), godly sorrow, repentance, salvation (2Cor 7:11), and joy (Ps 119:74). Before beginning the study, ask your friend what comes to mind when he or she hears the phrase "the fear of the Lord." Find out if that preconception is based on biblical texts. Then let the Bible clarify the joy of fearing God.

"Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord." (Psalm 34:11)

### Study

#### Psalm 103:11-18

How do you reconcile fear and love in this Psalm? How great is God's love for you when you fear Him? David, the author, fears God and reflects the perspective of one who fears God. What is his perspective about our life here on earth? How does the fear of God change your perspective about what matters most? Finally, in verse 18 what else does fear of God promote?

#### Matthew 10:28-31

Those "who kill the body" are a reference back to v. 22-23. Who are they? Why should you not fear people? What can people do to you if you sincerely follow Jesus? How can you be set free from even that fear - the fear of death? How does fear of man undermine a fear of God? Whom do you most fear on earth? Does fear for that person exceed your fear of God? Why or why not? How can reorder your fear according this Scripture? (Need more help? read Rev. 20:10-15)

#### Psalm 36:1-4

Fear of God is the beginning of wisdom, but happens when there is no fear of God? Why if fear of God healthy? Tell about a season of your life in which you had no fear of God before your eyes - did some of it look like this passage? How can you sustain a healthy fear of God?

#### Deuteronomy 14:23

Here's how to maintain a fear of God. What spiritual disciplines can help you gain and maintain a consistent fear of God? How can you put them into practice immediately?

#### Acts 10:1-4

Here's an example of a seeker who is known for his fear of God. What are some hallmarks of fearing God as seen in Cornelius? How does prayer promote this wonderful fear of God?

#### Psalm 86:11

A concluding prayer to ask God for a heart that fears Him.

### Additional Scriptures:

Psalm 147:11

Psalm 16:6

Isaiah 8:12-13

Psalm 86:11

Joshua 4:24

Proverb 23:17

John 12:42-43

2 Corinthians 5:11

# Foundation Study Series

## Pride and Humility

### Purpose

It's most difficult to see our need when blinded by pride. It's difficult to receive a scriptural challenge unless we are humble... Proverb 3:11 My child, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of his reproof. Proverb 9:7 Whoever corrects a scoffer wins abuse; whoever rebukes the wicked gets hurt. A scoffer who is rebuked will only hate you; the wise, when rebuked, will love you. See also Proverb 10:10, 15:12, 19:25, 28:23. Amos 5:10 They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.

### Study

#### Philippians 2:5-8

The mindset of humility as seen in Jesus... To what degree would you have to humble yourself to approximate Jesus' transition from God to man? He even humbled himself to the point of a shameful death for our sin.

#### 2 Chronicles 34:19-28

After reading about Josiah's reforms in vv. 1-7, consider his temptation to be religiously proud. How have you taken pride in your spirituality? How does Josiah compare to the kings that preceded and preceded him? Why is it dangerous to compare oneself to others? Despite his Godly achievements, Josiah tore his clothes in sorrow after hearing the Word of God... why? How would he respond to a reproof? How have you responded?

#### Deuteronomy 8:11-14

When are we most likely to be immersed in our pride? How do good times promote pride? Whom do you credit for your successes? How does success blind us to our real needs? How can you regain sight of your need? What does God do to help us see our need again?

#### Psalms 36:1-4

Conceit and arrogance blind us to our sin and prevents conviction.

#### Revelation 3:14-20

Why don't they even realize their pride? How does Jesus make them realize their condition? Why does Jesus do this for them?

#### Proverbs 11:2; 13:10; 16:5, 8-9; 21:4, 24; 27:2; 30:12-13

Proverbs on pride

### Additional Scriptures:

#### Elencho

Matthew 18:15  
Luke 3:19-20  
John 3:19-20, 16:8  
1 Corinthians 14:24-25  
Ephesians 5:11-13  
1 Timothy 5:20  
2 Timothy 4:2

#### Humility

Micah 6:6  
Psalm 138:6  
Isaiah 66:2  
2 Chronicles 32:24-26, 33:12-14, 34:27, 36:12  
Matthew 18:4  
Colossians 3:12

#### Pride

Daniel 5:18-23  
Isaiah 47:10  
Esther 6:6  
Romans 12:16  
1 Corinthians 5:2  
1 Timothy 6:3-4  
2 Timothy 3:2  
Hosea 7:10  
Psalm 10:4, 73:6, 31:23