

FOUNDATIONS



understanding
the depth
of our faith

Part 1

Name:

PARTICIPANT GUIDE

FEBRUARY 2021



wentzville
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

TABLE OF CONTENTS

4

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

5

WEEK 1: BIBLE

11

WEEK 2: TRINITY

17

WEEK 3: SIN

23

WEEK 4: FAITH

LETTER FROM KEITH

When it comes to building things that will last, the foundation is of utmost importance. Without a solid foundation, the structure will fall! I know this, you know this...even Jesus knows this! At the end of the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew, Jesus tells the story of a wise man who built his house on the rock and a foolish man who built his house on the sand. Jesus spoke these words about all that he taught, "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. [Matthew 7:24]" Wise people build on solid foundations.

Almost every church website will have a page called "What we believe" or "Statement of Faith" so that you can understand what the church is all about. How we understand and practice our faith doesn't come from our own hearts and minds. We rely on God's Word, the Bible, to tell us who God is, who we are, and what He desires from His people. Much like an iceberg, there is more to a church than what can be seen from the surface. The church is so much more than a building or campus; it is so much more than any individual or small group. When you dive deeper into the beliefs and practices of the church, you will see strength that drives our passion for Jesus, the Bible, the Church and Others.

Over the next couple of months we want to take a deep dive into what we believe and practice as a church and as God's people. We will explore the scriptures to gain a better understanding of the foundations that we are building our church upon. Our hope is that this time in God's Word will strengthen your faith and how you live out your faith in every aspect of your life!

Blessings,

Keith Comp

Senior Minister

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

The purpose of this guide is to ignite a passion for the Bible in your daily life. God's Word is living, active, and useful for our lives...but so few Christians actually engage in it daily. We want to provide you with a resource that you can use on your own and with your Life Group to ignite and sustain this passion. We want to make God's Word our way.

SERMON NOTES:

Bring this workbook to church each Sunday. As you listen to the sermon, make a note when you hear something that surprises you, intrigues you, bothers you, challenges you, or encourages you.

CONNECT QUESTIONS:

These questions will help you and your group members become more comfortable with talking and sharing with each other. Not only will you learn more about one-another, the questions will help to steer the discussion in the direction of the topic.

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION:

These questions are the "meat" of the discussion and will point back to the sermon each week. Feel free to read and answer these questions before your group meets. They will also help you dig deeper into the Scriptures during your group discussions.

CHANGE QUESTIONS:

At the end of Jesus' most famous sermon, he says that if you do not put his words into practice then you are a fool [Matthew 7:24-27]. Life transformation is the ultimate goal of a follower of Christ. Feel free to answer these questions out-loud when your leader reads them or you can quietly reflect and write a response in your workbook.

PRAY FOR ONE-ANOTHER:

Please focus this time on *your own personal* praises and requests instead of listing all of the bad things that happened to someone you know. We challenge you to get "deep" with one-another relationally, which means becoming a little bit vulnerable as you are honest with one-another.

PRAY FOR THE MISSIONS OF THE WEEK:

WCC supports many wonderful missionaries and organizations all over the world. We are committed to support them with our finances as well as our prayers and encouragement. Ask God to work in their lives and through their ministries to ignite a passion for Jesus in others.

DAILY DEVOTION:

Be consistent, honest, and intentional with this time and you will not regret it. The whole point of this workbook is to make the sermons and Scriptures stick with you in your daily walk with Christ. Digging in to God's Word and applying it to your daily life is perhaps the best way to solidify His truth into your heart and your life.

FOUNDATIONS

understanding
the **depth**
of our **faith**

Week 1 - Bible

WEEK 1 - BIBLE

CONNECT QUESTIONS

1. How many physical Bibles are in your home? Describe some of them and why you have them.
2. What is a quote [not from the Bible] that has given you inspiration or hope?
3. What are some examples of people losing their job or career because their words were inaccurate or misleading?

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. If you asked 100 people on the street what they thought about the Bible, what do you think they would say?
2. Why do you think so many people try to discredit the Bible? What do they say about the Bible?
3. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. What does it mean that the Bible is inspired by God? How does believing this make you think of Scripture differently?

4. Read Romans 15:4-6. What does it mean that the Bible is inspirational? How does this make you think of Scripture differently?
5. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 again. What does it mean that the Bible is instructive? How does this make you think of Scripture differently?
6. GROUP ACTIVITY: Assign each verse from Psalm 19:7-14 to a person in the group. Have each person explain to the group which parts of the verse relate to the following truths about Scripture: inspired, inspirational, instructive.
7. Why do you think this was the first message in a “Foundations” series? Why is our understanding of the Bible so important?

CHANGE QUESTIONS

1. What sources of “wisdom” do you listen to each day? What are they equipping you for?
2. Are you thoroughly equipped for every good work? How can you equip yourself this week?
3. What does your Bible engagement look like? How can you build on your biblical foundation this week?

PRAY FOR ONE-ANOTHER

[Spend some time praying with your Life Group. When asking for requests, try to keep the focus on personal praises/requests that relate to people in the group.]

PRAY FOR MISSION OF THE WEEK

High Hill Christian Camp

High Hill Christian Camp and Retreat Center’s goal is to offer a fun, Christian atmosphere in a modern camp setting surrounded by God’s wilderness — all designed so that children will leave with a closer relationship with Jesus. highhillcamp.org Make sure to register your kids for summer camp! Information for which camps WCC is attending can be found at wentzvillecc.org/events

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 1-3]

DAY 1:

“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ”

[Hebrews 4:12, ESV]

- ▶ Which description of the Bible is your favorite [living, active, sharper]? How would you describe this to someone else in another way?

- ▶ Which purpose of the Bible is your favorite [piercing, discerning]? How do these uses of the Bible impact the way you will read it from now on?

DAY 2:

“And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe. ”

[1 Thessalonians 2:13, NIV]

- ▶ When have you heard someone teach the Word of God and it seemed like it was coming from God and not from man?

- ▶ When did you first hear, receive, and accept the word of God? How is it still “at work” in you as a believer?

DAY 3:

“The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. ”

[Psalm 19:7, NIV]

- ▶ When has God’s Word been refreshing to your soul? What was it and why was it refreshing?

- ▶ When has someone shown you wisdom and understanding from God’s Word? How will you seek to learn more on your own?

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 4-6]

DAY 4:

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”
[James 1:22, NIV]

- ▶ When have you made yourself believe a lie in order to avoid an uncomfortable truth? How did things turn out?

- ▶ The purpose of the Bible is for you to listen and do what it says! How are you listening? What are you doing?

DAY 5:

“¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,”so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”
[2 Timothy 3:16-17, NIV]

- ▶ Explain the differences between the 4 ways the Bible is useful in verse 16. Which is your favorite?

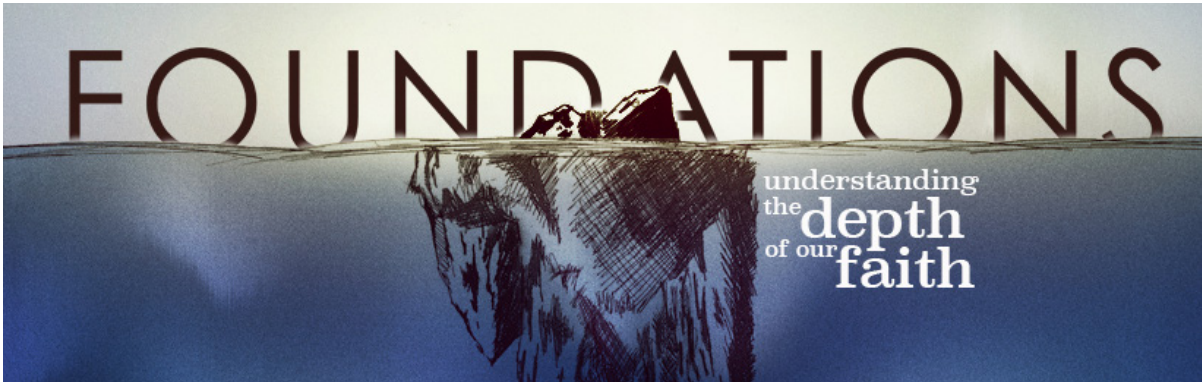
- ▶ Read verse 17 again. Slowly. Word by word. Which word stands out to you? What do you need to do because of this?

DAY 6:

“See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.”
[Colossians 2:8, NIV]

- ▶ When have you been duped by someone? What made you believe or trust them?

- ▶ How can you be sure you are not deceived or taken captive by bad theology, philosophies, or traditions?



Week 2 - Trinity

WEEK 2 - TRINITY

CONNECT QUESTIONS

1. What do you think would be the most difficult thing to describe to someone who cannot see? Why is it difficult?
2. How would you describe what a computer is and how it works to someone who lived 1000 years ago?
3. Who or what do you picture when you pray to God? Where do you think this image comes from?

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. Read Genesis 1:1-2 and John 1:1-3. Why do you think people would want to reject the foundational belief of the trinity? What is the danger of this?
2. Watch the following video. What did you think of the illustration? How does this video help to explain the trinity? Discuss your reactions as a group.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=AQkFlzFJ3kA
3. What are some illustrations people have used to describe the trinity? Why do these illustrations ultimately fall short?
OPTIONAL VIDEO: www.youtube.com/watch?v=mvj87QCF0lg

4. **GROUP ACTIVITY:** Go around the room and have each person give the first word that comes to their mind when they think about each person of God: Father/Son/Spirit.

5. Read Matthew 3:16-17. Why do you think all 3 persons of God are present at this event? What does this event teach us about the trinity?

6. Read Matthew 28:19-20. How is this Scripture related to the last question? What does Jesus want us to know and do?

7. Read John 10:25-33. What does this event reveal about the relationship between Jesus and God the Father? How does this refute Arianism?

8. **FURTHER STUDY:** Watch the following video [or search for “BibleProject God”]:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=eAvYmE2YYIU&t=2s

CHANGE QUESTIONS

1. Which person of the trinity do you feel more on a connection with? Why?
2. How does your understanding of the trinity impact your relationship with God?
3. How will you improve your relationship with all 3 persons of God this week [Father/Son/Spirit]?

PRAY FOR ONE-ANOTHER

[Spend some time praying with your Life Group. When asking for requests, try to keep the focus on personal praises/requests that relate to people in the group.]

PRAY FOR MISSION OF THE WEEK

Jireh India Missions

This ministry in India shares the good news of Jesus with those who have never heard His name. They provide homes and education for orphans at House of Peace, teach widows to sew so they can provide for their children, provide bread for much of their community through Five Loaves Bakery, and work with a leper colony. They strive to fulfill Psalm 82:3 — *Defend the poor and orphans; do justice to the afflicted and needy.*

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 1-3]

DAY 1:

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”
[Matthew 28:19, NIV]

► Why do you think human analogies to explain the trinity ultimately fall short? Which analogy have you heard which comes the closest to helping you understand the trinity?

► What commands do you see in this verse? Why should the trinity be included in these commands? What does it inspire you to do?

DAY 2:

“¹⁰Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”
[Mark 1:10-11, NIV]

► Why do you think God chose to have all 3 persons present at the baptism of Jesus when he was a man on earth?

► What do you think the disciples and spectators were thinking as this happened? How does this influence your thinking of God as Father/Jesus/Spirit?

DAY 3:

“God the Father knew you and chose you long ago, and his Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed him and have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ. May God give you more and more grace and peace.”
[1 Peter 1:2, NLT]

► Do you know any twins or triplets? What similarities and differences do you notice in them?

► Why is it important for you to know God in all of his fullness? How does this impact your relationship with God?

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 4-6]

DAY 4:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”
[John 1:1, NIV]

- ▶ Why do you think Jesus was described as the Word? How is this more than just a description or illustration?

- ▶ Why should you believe Jesus existed with God and as God in the beginning of the world? How does this impact your thoughts of who Jesus is?

DAY 5:

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”
[John 1:14, NIV]

- ▶ John continues his description of Jesus to say that the Word became flesh. Why would John want everyone to know about the flesh and dwelling of Jesus?

- ▶ When have you seen the glory of God and his Son? Since Jesus is full of grace and truth, what does that mean to you? What does it mean for you?

DAY 6:

“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father--the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father--he will testify about me.”
[John 15:26, NIV]

- ▶ Why do you think the Holy Spirit is usually the last part of God that people think of?

- ▶ When you pray, do you think of the Holy Spirit? Why or why not? Take some time right now to pray TO God, THROUGH the Holy Spirit, and in the NAME of Jesus.

understanding
the **depth**
of our **faith**

Week 3 - Sin

WEEK 3 - SIN

CONNECT QUESTIONS

1. When have you fixed a problem only to have it come back again and again? [Ex: Car, appliance, electronics, etc.]
2. What are some movies in which the main character sacrifices himself for the safety of others?
3. What are some movies where the main character has a big personal struggle or flaw to overcome?

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. Read 1 John 1:8 and Romans 3:23. These verses sound negative, but why are they so important for Christians to know and understand?
2. Read Romans 6:1-2. What type of people do you think Paul was refuting by this bold statement? Why do we need to have a harsh stance and fight against sin? [See also Galatians 5:13]
3. Read Romans 7:7. What does Paul say is the purpose of the Old Testament law? Why should we continue to know and honor the Old Testament?

4. **Read Romans 7:21-25. What is the battle that Paul is describing here? Why is this still a battle that we have to face today?**

5. **Why do you think it is important for all Christians, especially new believers, to know that sinfulness is still a struggle we must face?**

6. **Read Romans 8:1-4. How does Paul turn things back into a positive direction after speaking of his struggles in chapter 7?**

7. **Where does the battleground in the fight against flesh and spirit take place? Why do we need to know this?**

8. **Read Romans 8:5-8. Who do we have to help us in this battle against sin? How does Paul suggest we are to wage war against sin?**

CHANGE QUESTIONS

1. How should we live differently now that Jesus has set us free from the laws of sin and death?
2. What are some sinful desires that you constantly struggle with time after time? What needs to happen to overcome them?
3. When have you given up the fight against sin? How can you get back on the battlefield and win this week?

PRAY FOR ONE-ANOTHER

[Spend some time praying with your Life Group. When asking for requests, try to keep the focus on personal praises/requests that relate to people in the group.]

PRAY FOR MISSIONS OF THE WEEK

LOVEtheLOU

LOVEtheLOU is a community development initiative that connects resources to the needs of St. Louis. During the constant process of growth and development, they strive to see St. Louis restored through transforming actions. LTL is proud of the progress in St. Louis and are excited about what will continue to happen as they grow and develop. lovethelou.org

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 1-3]

DAY 1:

“No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God’s seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God.”
[1 John 3:9, ESV]

- ▶ What kinds of sins are the toughest for you to overcome? [Greed, pride, lust, anger, jealousy, etc.]

- ▶ How does thinking of your re-birth in God affect your attitude toward sin? What needs to change?

DAY 2:

“Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God.”
[3 John 1:11, NIV]

- ▶ What do you think it means to see God? How can we know if someone has truly seen God?

- ▶ The word here for imitate comes from our word for mimic. Are you around God enough to mimic Him? Spend time with God today.

DAY 3:

“What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?”
[Romans 6:1-2, NIV]

- ▶ When have you tried to justify your sin? When have you tried to justify the sin of others?

- ▶ Have you truly died to sin? What sin do you still live in, or allow to live in you? Why?

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 4-6]

DAY 4:

“Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”
[James 4:8, NIV]

- ▶ How does this verse show the connection between being close with God and our sinfulness?

- ▶ When do you feel distant from God? What causes that distance, and what can you do to get back into God’s presence?

DAY 5:

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.”
[Hebrews 12:1, NIV]

- ▶ Think of 5 different athletes from 5 different sports. If they were to trade their clothing with each other, how would that affect their performance?

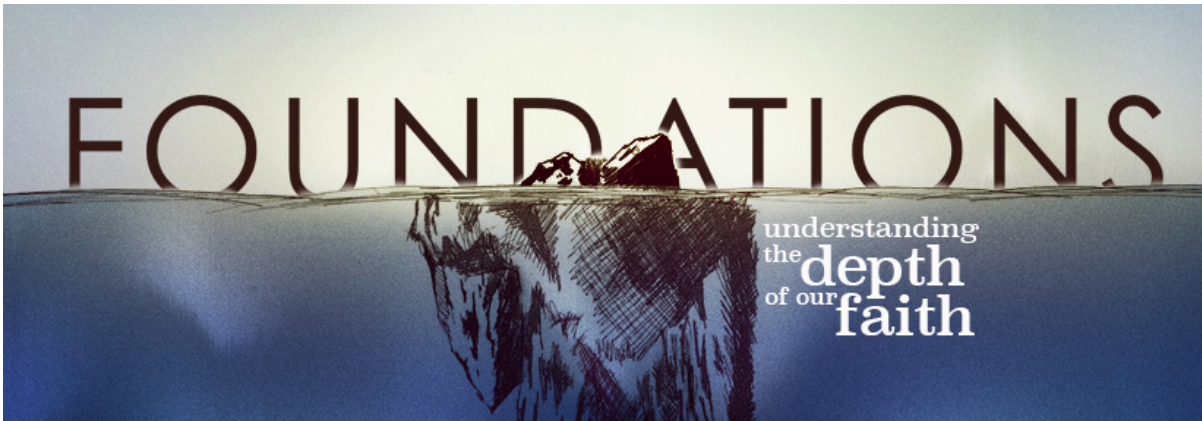
- ▶ When have you seen someone who was entangled by sin? Why is it so easy to become entangled? How can you avoid the snares of sin?

DAY 6:

“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.”
[Acts 3:19, NIV]

- ▶ Repentance means we turn away from sin and follow God. If God forgives us, why do we need to worry about repenting and turning?

- ▶ What is the promise that comes if we turn away from sin? How does this make you feel? How can you seek this today?



Week 4 - Faith

WEEK 4 - FAITH

CONNECT QUESTIONS

1. What are some big risks you have taken in your life? Why did you take them?
2. When have you placed your trust in something or someone and it turned out well for you?
3. When do you tend to be an early adopter? When are you a late-comer?

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. People often confuse taking risks with having faith. What is the difference?
2. Read Luke 14:27-30. Why would Jesus want people to count the cost before they decide to be a disciple?
3. Who do you think tends to have more faith, early adopters or late adopters?

4. Read Hebrews 11:1. Go around the room and complete the following sentence based on what biblical faith means: "Faith is more than _____...it involves _____."
5. Read Hebrews 11:6. What words stand out in this verse? What are some goals and results our faith should produce?
6. Read Galatians 5:6 and 1 John 3:16. How are the definitions of true faith and true love related to one another?
7. FURTHER STUDY: Watch the video below and discuss how the Parable of the Seeds relates to faith, early adopters, and late adopters. www.gotquestions.org/parable-sower.html

CHANGE QUESTIONS

1. How do you tangibly express your love for God? How do you tangibly express your faith in God?
2. When do you need to be an early adopter for God and show trust? When do you need to be a late adopter for God and show sincerity?
3. How can you please God through the actions of your faith this week?

PRAY FOR ONE-ANOTHER

[Spend some time praying with your Life Group. When asking for requests, try to keep the focus on personal praises/requests that relate to people in the group.]

PRAY FOR MISSIONS OF THE WEEK

Central Christian College of the Bible

The goal of Central Christian College of the Bible is to raise up servant leaders for the church and to do so as affordably as possible. CCCB believes so completely in what their students will do for Christ that they want to not only equip them with a quality education, but an affordable one so their future ministry will not be burdened by financial stress. That is why CCCB offers a Full-Tuition Scholarship and will continue to do so as long as there are means. cccb.edu

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 1-3]

DAY 1:

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”
[Ephesians 2:8-9, NIV]

- ▶ Why are grace and faith so important for our salvation? What do they have in common?

- ▶ When have you boasted about your works? Why did you do it? What should you do instead?

DAY 2:

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”
[Ephesians 2:10, NIV]

- ▶ Why were we created? How is this related to our faith and salvation mentioned in the previous verses? [see day 1]

- ▶ What good works do you think God prepared for you to do in this life? Which ones are you doing and which ones are you neglecting?

DAY 3:

“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.”
[Galatians 5:6, NIV]

- ▶ People were more concerned with their heritage than their obedience. How does this verse explain the true kind of faith we should have?

- ▶ How are the definitions of love and faith related to one another? How can you express each of those today?

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 4-6]

DAY 4:

“6So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, 7rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”
[Colossians 2:6-7, NIV]

- ▶ What would you say is the foundation for the roots of your faith? Whom and where did your faith foundation come from?

- ▶ What is the result of a strong faith? How can you strengthen your faith and be rooted today?

DAY 5:

“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”
[Hebrews 11:1, NIV]

- ▶ Rewrite this definition in your own words without using any of the words above, besides faith. Look up this verse in a few other translations like the NLT, ESV, and Message.

- ▶ Where do you struggle in your faith, hope, and assurance? What would help you with your faith struggle?

DAY 6:

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”
[Hebrews 11:6, NIV]

- ▶ Are you a people pleaser? Why or why not? What do you think it means to be a God pleaser?

- ▶ Do you think your faith pleases God? What can you do to please Him as you grow in your faith foundation today?
