

FOUNDATIONS



understanding
the depth
of our faith

Part 2

Name:

PARTICIPANT GUIDE

MARCH 2021



wentzville
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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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.

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WEEK 5 - SALVATION

CONNECT QUESTIONS

1. **When have you saved someone else from harm? What happened?**
2. **When has someone saved you from harm? What happened?**
3. **What is something you restored instead of throwing it away?**

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. **Read Colossians 2:13-15. What do we need to be saved from? Why do we need to realize this?**
2. **Why do you think people feel like they can earn their way into heaven or work hard enough to pay off their sin-debt?**
3. **Since we are not saved by good works, why does the Bible talk so much about doing good works? [See Ephesians 2:8-10]**

4. **Read Romans 6:1-2. How should our lives be different after we have received salvation? [See also 6:11-14]**
5. **How would you describe the term Justification? Why do we need to understand this part of our salvation? [See Romans 8:1-2]**
6. **How would you describe the term Sanctification? Why do we need to understand this part of our salvation? [See Philippians 2:12-13]**
7. **How would you describe the term Glorification? Why do we need to understand this part of our salvation? [See Colossians 3:4]**

CHANGE QUESTIONS

1. How often do you think of your salvation? How often do you thank God for your salvation?
2. Why did you make the decision to be saved? What makes you continue to make that decision each day?
3. What do you need to work on in your salvation process?

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

Team Expansion: Tim & Amy Maxson

The Maxsons work at Fellowship Dubai church in the Middle East and are making disciples of migrant workers. The Maxson family has five children. teamexpansion.org

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 1-3]

DAY 1:

“²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”
[Romans 3:23-24, NIV]

- ▶ When you realize you have sinned and fallen short of God’s standards, what feelings do you have? Regret? Failure? Shame? Grace? Redemption? Defensive? All of the above?

- ▶ Justified means paid for. Reconciled. Made right. How does that word make you feel about your sins?

DAY 2:

“So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.”
[2 Peter 3:14, NIV]

- ▶ When have you experienced full and complete peace? Who or what brought about this feeling?

- ▶ What efforts are you making to be spotless and blameless before God? What efforts should you be making?

DAY 3:

“But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.”
[Romans 6:22, NIV]

- ▶ What sins have you been set free from because of the grace, forgiveness, and salvation given to you by God?

- ▶ Since you have been saved, what benefits do you have? What do those benefits reap in your life? What do they result in?

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 4-6]

DAY 4:

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
[Romans 6:23, NIV]

- ▶ When have you been given something you deserved, but you did not want? When have you been given something you wanted but did not deserve it?

- ▶ How does the contrast in this verse show the contrast you should have in your life since you follow Christ Jesus as our Lord?

DAY 5:

“¹²Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.”
[Philippians 2:12-13, NIV]

- ▶ Jesus initiates and completes our salvation, but we have a part to play in the process. What part do you need to work out with seriousness and determination?

- ▶ How does verse 13 give you encouragement as you work out your salvation? What is the result of doing this?

DAY 6:

“By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.”
[1 Corinthians 15:2, NIV]

- ▶ When have you believed in something or someone and it turned out to be a waste? How did that change the way you put your trust into something/someone?

- ▶ There is a big “if” in this verse. Why is that “if” so important when it comes to our salvation? Are you holding firmly? Or is the “gospel” you are following in vain?

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Week 6 - Baptism

WEEK 6 - BAPTISM

CONNECT QUESTIONS

1. What is one thing that you consistently put off until the last minute?
2. What are some excuses people might give for procrastinating?
3. What has been the worst excuse you have heard or given for putting something off?

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. Why do you think the subject of baptism is so controversial? What are some major disagreements with baptism?
2. Read Romans 6:1-4. How is our baptism related to the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus? How does this imagery make baptism more meaningful?
3. Read Romans 6:5-7. What are the implications for how a baptized follower of Jesus is to live? [Also refer to verses 1-2]

4. We believe in a “Believer’s Baptism.” What do you think that means and what does the Bible have to say about this? [See Acts 2:38; Matthew 28:18-20]
5. The Bible lists multiple commands that are directly linked to salvation [being saved]. Why do you think these biblical commands are often put in this order? Discuss why each of these steps are important and how one’s faith could be incomplete if one step is left out.
- a. Hear [Romans 10:14; 10:17]
 - b. Believe [John 3:16; Acts 2:36-37]
 - c. Confess [Acts 19:18; Romans 10:9]
 - d. Repent [Acts 3:19]
 - e. Be Baptized [Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21]
 - f. Remain Faithful [1 Corinthians 15:2; Revelation 2:10]
6. How would you describe the significance and importance of baptism to someone else? What would you say baptism is NOT to be done for?
7. What do you think of the phrase “Baptism is not essential, but it is expected”:

CHANGE QUESTIONS

1. Have you made the decision to follow Christ and be baptized? If not, what are you waiting for [Acts 22:16]?
2. What have you learned about baptism that gives you reassurance of your faith?
3. How will you reconfirm your decision to be baptized by remaining faithful to following Jesus each and every day?

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

HOPE Ministries Food Pantry

HOPE provides families in St. Charles county assistance with food and physical needs. You can donate non-perishable food items to this ministry by visiting the food cart in the WCC café. Take home a bag and bring it back with the items requested for the month.

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 1-3]

DAY 1:

“Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?”
[Romans 6:3, NIV]

► Why do you think Paul assumes everyone is baptized?

► What do you think it means to be baptized into Jesus’ death? How does this affect the way you view baptism?

DAY 2:

“We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”
[Romans 6:4, NIV]

► How does being raised in baptism paint a picture of walking or living in new life?

► What does this new life look like? How will you live it today?

DAY 3:

“²⁶So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, ²⁷for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.”
[Galatians 3:26-27, NIV]

► Remembering that you are a child of God, how will you live out your faith differently today?

► What does it mean to be clothed with Christ? How will you show his glory through your actions today?

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 4-6]

DAY 4:

“³²Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. ³³But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.”
[Matthew 10:32-33, NIV]

- ▶ What does baptism have to do with these verses? Why do you think baptism is something that is usually done in front of others?

- ▶ Have you publicly acknowledged Jesus? Do you publicly acknowledge him each day? How can you live for him today?

DAY 5:

“Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”
[Acts 2:38, NIV]

- ▶ Look at the order in these verses: repent, be baptized, forgiveness, and receive the Holy Spirit. Why do you think Peter puts these in that order?

- ▶ Why do you think repentance is so important in the process of salvation? What do you need to repent of and turn away from today?

DAY 6:

“For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.”
[Colossians 2:12, NLT]

- ▶ Meditate and pray on the following words. Think of how each of these impact your daily life as a follower of Jesus:

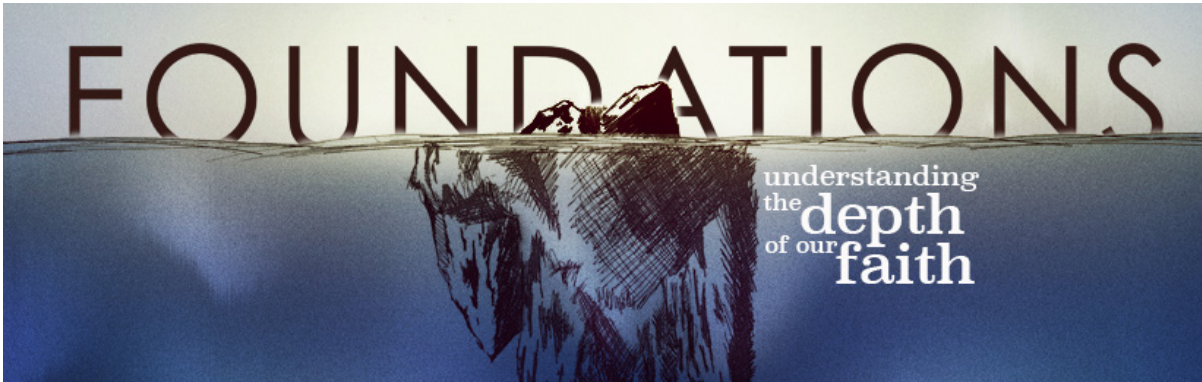
▶ Buried

▶ Baptized

▶ Raised

▶ New Life

▶ Trusted



Week 7 - Spiritual Growth

WEEK 7 - SPIRITUAL GROWTH

CONNECT QUESTIONS

1. When have you ruined something because you were impatient?
2. What is something that took a long time to develop and you now get to enjoy?
3. When have you put a lot of time into a project but it did not turn out the way you intended?

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. Read 2 Peter 1:3-4. What do you think it looks like to live a “godly life”? What has God given us to live this kind of life?
2. What do you think it means to “participate in the divine nature” of God? What are the benefits and results of this?
3. Read 2 Peter 1:5-7. Why do we need to add to our faith? Why is faith alone not sufficient?

4. Which of these qualities of faith stand out to you? Why do you think they are in the order they are in?
5. Read 2 Peter 1:8-9. What do you think an ineffective and unproductive Christian looks like? How do we keep from being this way?
6. Why is Peter so harsh about those who do not have these qualities? How do the descriptions in verse 9 show how serious God takes spiritual growth?
7. Read 2 Peter 1:10-11. What do you think it means to confirm our calling and election? What efforts do we need to make, and why?

CHANGE QUESTIONS

1. Which qualities in verses 5-7 do you need to focus on this week? Which is easier? Which is more difficult?
2. How would you describe your spiritual life? Dead, struggling, growing, flourishing, producing fruit?
3. What are you currently doing each day to add to your spiritual growth? What do you need to begin to do 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

Team Expansion: Allen & Cherry Messimer – Taiwan

The Messimers have served as missionaries in Taiwan since 2004. Their mission is to evangelize, disciple, and provide training so every believer can use his or her gifts in a simple church ministry. This also means every church can start new, indigenous churches. Over 90% of Taiwanese people still worship idols. teamexpansion.org

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 1-3]

DAY 1:

“By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.”
[2 Peter 1:3, NLT]

- ▶ When have you tried to accomplish something but you did not have the right tools, training, or resources? How did it turn out?

- ▶ What do you wish God would give you in order to live a godly life? What do you think he has already given you?

DAY 2:

“And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world’s corruption caused by human desires.”
[2 Peter 1:4, NLT]

- ▶ What are some promises God has given mankind/you? What do these promises enable you to be able to do?

- ▶ Pray and meditate on these things: God’s glory -- God’s excellence -- God’s promises -- God’s divine nature.

DAY 3:

“In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God’s promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge”
[2 Peter 1:5, NLT]

- ▶ What kind of response do you need to have to God’s promises?

- ▶ What needs to supplement your faith? How can you add moral excellence and knowledge to your life?

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 4-6]

DAY 4:

“and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone.”
[2 Peter 1:6-7, NLT]

- ▶ Many of these words are also fruit of the Spirit found in Galatians 5. How does a Spirit-filled life relate to our faith and spiritual growth?

- ▶ Which of the words above do you need to work on today? How can you add these to your spiritual walk?

DAY 5:

“The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins.”
[2 Peter 1:8-9, NLT]

- ▶ When has your knowledge of a subject been useful in a time of need? When have you needed knowledge of a subject but did not have it?

- ▶ What do you think leads to a person failing to develop and grow in their spiritual walk? How can you keep from being shortsighted and blind?

DAY 6:

“So, dear brothers and sisters, work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Do these things, and you will never fall away.”
[2 Peter 1:10, NLT]

- ▶ When have you worked long and hard to prove something to someone? How did they respond?

- ▶ Why should we have to prove we are saved, called, and chosen? How can you keep from falling away?

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Week 8 - Stewardship

WEEK 8 - STEWARDSHIP

CONNECT QUESTIONS

1. What are some things that other people waste which bothers you?
2. What are some things you waste that may bother other people?
3. When have you entrusted something valuable to someone else? What happened?

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. What is the ultimate goal of stewardship? How is it different from being a good saver or good investor?
2. Read Matthew 25:14-18. Why do you think each man was given a different amount? How could this cause a problem?
3. The first two men put their money to work. What do you think this represents for us today?

4. Read Matthew 25:19-23. Why do you think the master [God] calls the servants [us] both “good” and “faithful”? How are these two fruits of the Spirit related to one another?
5. Read Matthew 25:24-30. The last servant was loyal to his master, but this was not enough. How is being faithful different from being loyal?
6. On the surface, this parable deals with money and investments. In what other ways do you think we should be good stewards with what God has entrusted to us?
7. The faithful servants were praised and rewarded, while the third servant was punished and rebuked. What does this say about how God values our material and spiritual investments?

CHANGE QUESTIONS

1. What gifts, resources, and skills has God entrusted you with? When have you been a good steward of these?
2. When have you squandered opportunities instead of investing them? What are you burying right now?
3. How can you invest what God has given to you so that you may be called “good and faithful”?

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

Christian Prison Ministry of Mid-America

Missouri is home to 29 prisons and 2 county jails in 5 states. CPM’s goal is to evangelize, encourage, and equip the believers in all of these prisons. To date, over 400 inmates have been baptized!

christianprisonministryofmissouri.org

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 1-3]

DAY 1:

“Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! ⁷It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, ⁸yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.”
[Proverbs 6:6-8, NIV]

- ▶ When have you been like the ant? When have you been like the sluggard? What makes you act like one or the other?

- ▶ Why would God care about storing up provisions when he says we should rely on Him for our daily bread?
[See Matthew 6:11]

DAY 2:

“May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.”
[Psalm 19:14, NIV]

- ▶ What is a memorable gift someone has given you that touched your heart?

- ▶ What kind of gift could you give to God or someone else that would touch the heart of God?

DAY 3:

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God--this is your true and proper worship.”
[Romans 12:1, NIV]

- ▶ What is the difference between a living sacrifice and a normal sacrifice? What does this have to do with true and proper worship with our bodies?

- ▶ How can you use your body, mind, and heart to serve God as a living sacrifice? What can you do this week to worship God with your body?

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 4-6]

DAY 4:

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”
[1 Peter 4:10, NIV]

- ▶ What gifts have you received from God? How have you used them to serve others? How can you use them in the future?

- ▶ Are you a faithful steward of what God has blessed you with? How do you use and show God’s grace in its various forms?

DAY 5:

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”
[2 Corinthians 9:6-7, NIV]

- ▶ When have you sown your blessings generously? When have you sown your blessings sparingly?

- ▶ Do you give to God out of joy and desire, or out of guilt and compulsion? Why would God want you to give cheerfully out of your heart?

DAY 6:

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’”
[Matthew 25:21, NIV]

- ▶ When have you been faithful with a small thing someone entrusted you with? When have you not been faithful with things you were in charge of?

- ▶ This parable is about this life and the life to come. What do you need to be faithful with now in order to share in your master’s happiness in the life to come?
