

FOUNDATIONS



understanding
the depth
of our faith

Part 3

Name:

PARTICIPANT GUIDE

APRIL 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 9 - Communion

WEEK 9 - COMMUNION

CONNECT QUESTIONS

1. When have you tried to do something good but it ended up getting you into more trouble?
2. What is the wildest thing you have eaten?
3. When have you experienced an especially memorable meal? What made it special?

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. Read 1 Corinthians 10:16. What do you think it means to participate in the blood and body of Christ through communion?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 11:17-22. What were the Corinthians doing wrong? Why was Paul so upset with them?

3. In what ways do you think Churches or people today could be guilty of doing more harm than good when taking communion?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. Jesus said to take communion in remembrance of him. What are we to remember? Why do we need to do this each time?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 11:27-30. What may happen if we take communion in an unworthy manner? Why is this so serious?
6. What does it mean to examine ourselves before we take communion? How and why should we do this?

CHANGE QUESTIONS

1. When have you been guilty of taking communion in an unworthy manner?
2. How will you take communion differently after this study?
3. What can you do to best prepare yourself before you take communion from now on?

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 THE MISSION OF THE WEEK

Frontier Ministries

This is a NEW Ministry with WCC! Daniel & Kelsey H. are leaving this month for Northern Africa with their family where they will be reaching to a currently unreached Muslim people group. Due to the nature of their ministry and the safety of their family, this is all the information we are able to give.

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 1-3]

DAY 1:

“He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed.”
[1 Peter 2:24, NLT]

- ▶ What do you think of when you take communion? What images come to your mind?

- ▶ Stop right now to picture the image described above. Rest and meditate on that scene. Now thank God for your spiritual healing through his wounds.

DAY 2:

“But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.”
[Isaiah 53:5, NIV]

- ▶ This prophecy of Jesus occurred hundreds of years before Jesus was on earth. How does this bring deeper meaning to your times of communion?

- ▶ What did Jesus get? What do we get? Why do we need to remember both parts of this?

DAY 3:

“⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.”
[Acts 2:42, 46, NIV]

- ▶ What are the two possibilities of what it means to break bread together? Why are both important for us to do as a church body?

- ▶ What are the things they were devoted to and continued to do? How can you be more devoted and consistent with these things?

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 4-6]

DAY 4:

“Is not the cup of thanks-giving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?”
[1 Corinthians 10:16, NIV]

- ▶ What do you think it means to participate in the blood and body of Christ?

- ▶ Why do you think Jesus’ blood AND body are both emphasized with communion? How can you be sure to participate in both of these?

DAY 5:

“Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.”
[1 Corinthians 10:17, NIV]

- ▶ Why do you think Paul emphasizes one loaf to the church body?

- ▶ We are not wrong by using individual wafers, but what can you [and WCC] do to emphasize Paul’s purpose of writing this verse?

DAY 6:

“So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.”
[1 Corinthians 11:27, NIV]

- ▶ When have you taken communion out of habit, with a bad attitude, or in an unworthy manner?

- ▶ How can you keep from doing this? What do you think a worthy manner looks like for communion?

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WEEK 10 - DISCIPLESHIP

CONNECT QUESTIONS

1. If you had to leave home and leave all of your belongings behind, what would you miss the most?
2. When have you had a disagreement with someone because you had different definitions of a word or term?
3. What are some things you have learned from a person that you would not have learned in a book?

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. What do you think is meant by the quote “disciples are not made by accident”?
2. Jesus said “Follow me... and I will make you... fishers of men” [Matthew 4:19 ESV]. Explain the three parts of this command and how it relates to making disciples.
3. READ Matthew 4:18-22. What do you notice in verses 20 and 22 about the responses of these first disciples? How should that inspire us?

4. Read Luke 14:25-33. What illustrations does Jesus give about the cost of being a disciple? Explain each one.
5. Read Luke 14:33 again. What are some things that may get in the way of a person being a true disciple?
6. Read Matthew 16:24. Why do you think Jesus put conditions on being a disciple? Why would he need to explain what people were getting themselves into?
7. Read Matthew 28:18-20. How does this command from Jesus relate to his commands to his first disciples? [Refer to question 3]

CHANGE QUESTIONS

1. What is holding you back from being a better disciple?
2. What is holding you back from making disciples?
3. How will you follow Jesus better? Grow to be more like him? Go to make more disciples?

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 THE MISSIONS OF THE WEEK

Shiloh Christian Children's Ranch

Located in Kahoka and Clarence, MO, Shiloh is a safe haven for abused and neglected children, and includes six homes for children, two relief homes, and an onsite school. shilohranch.org

Show-Me Christian Youth Home

This faith-based organization seeks to improve the lives of children struggling because of circumstances in their current home environment. showmehelpingkids.com

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 1-3]

DAY 1:

“For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps.”
[1 Peter 1:21, NLT]

► A disciple is a growing follower and imitator of Jesus. How does this verse show that?

► What are some possible ways disciples of Jesus may suffer today? How can you follow his example?

DAY 2:

“Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.’”
[Matthew 16:24, NIV]

► Yesterday we saw that Jesus says we are to give up everything. Why would he also make this statement?

► When do you deny yourself? When have you indulged? What cross do you need to take up in order to follow Jesus?

DAY 3:

“In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.”
[Luke 14:33, NIV]

► This verse is at the end of many examples that Jesus gives of things that get in the way of being a disciple. What gets in your way?

► Why would Jesus be so harsh and demanding of his disciples? What would he say to you today?

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 4-6]

DAY 4:

“So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.”
[Revelation 3:19, NIV]

- ▶ Why is Jesus so harsh on people who are lukewarm? What kind of person do you think this looks like?

- ▶ Have you been guilty of being a lukewarm or mediocre Christian? What would it take for you to be hot/on fire/ignited for Jesus?

DAY 5:

“¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”
[Matthew 28:19-20a, NIV]

- ▶ Make disciples is the main verb in this command. How are the others related to this?

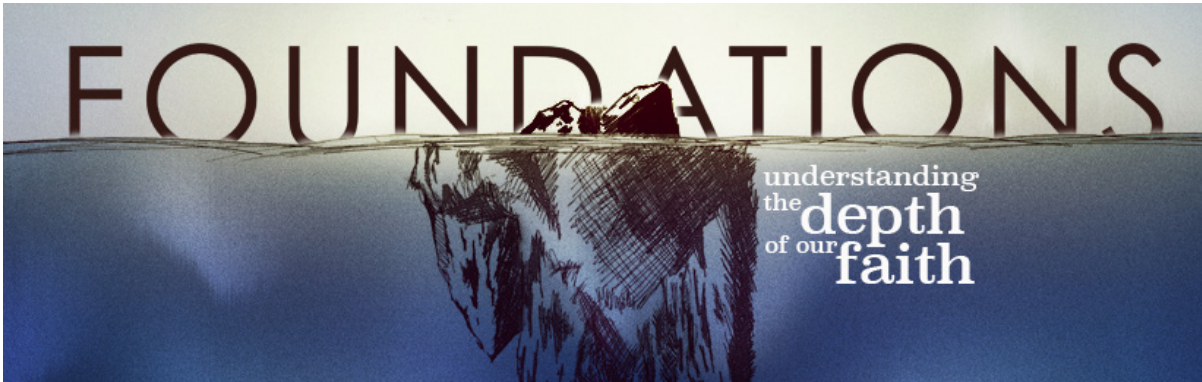
- ▶ Discipleship is very interesting in that we are both followers and leaders. Whom are you following? Whom are you leading or discipling?

DAY 6:

“¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ... ²⁰And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’”
[Matthew 28:19-20a, NIV]

- ▶ Why does Jesus want us to know about his authority? How does he relinquish authority to us through his command to make disciples?

- ▶ Why would Jesus reassure us that he will always be with us? How does this help you as a disciple and a disciple maker?



Week 11 - Evangelism

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WEEK 11 - EVANGELISM

CONNECT QUESTIONS

1. When have you been so excited about something you just had to tell everyone you know?
2. What are some examples of good news that people usually share with everyone they know?
3. When have you been asked a question you were unprepared to answer? [Every week at Life Group...right? Ha!]

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. When you think of the word evangelism, who and what comes to your mind?
2. After hearing the sermon, what is your definition or concept of evangelism now?
3. How was the lesson on discipleship last week related to evangelism this week?

4. What are some reasons people may be hesitant or resistant to evangelism? How does Romans 10:14-15 give you encouragement and urgency?
5. Read 1 Peter 3:13-18. How do these verses give encouragement and help to alleviate some of the fears people have with evangelism?
6. Read Matthew 28:18-20. How do these verses relate to evangelism and discipleship?
7. In March we learned about the salvation process we see in the Bible. Go through these steps again and discuss how you would explain each of these to a person who asked you about how to become a follower of Jesus.
 - 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]

CHANGE QUESTIONS

1. During the sermon and during this lesson, who came to your mind that needs to hear and accept the Gospel message?
2. In what practical ways can you evangelize to these people, and others in your life?
3. When and how will you be a light to those around you? How will you be prepared to give an answer to the hope you have?
4. Pray for the lost. Mention them by name (if you are comfortable with it). Pray that God will use you or send another believer to reach these people.

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 THE MISSION OF THE WEEK

Outreach International - Mexico | Josh & Susan Sanchez

This mission, called Me & My House Ministries, is a church plant in Colima City. Their goal is to begin a church planting movement within the region.

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 1-3]

DAY 1:

“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,”
[1 Peter 3:15, NIV]

- ▶ What scares you the most about sharing your faith with someone else? Have you ever had a bad experience doing this?

- ▶ How can you prepare yourself to give an answer for the hope and faith you have?

DAY 2:

“Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.”
[Colossians 4:6, NIV]

- ▶ Why would our words and conversations need to be gracious and attractive when we are evangelizing? What can happen if we are not?

- ▶ When have you said or [posted something online!] that may make it difficult to then share the Gospel with someone who saw that?

DAY 3:

“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”
[Matthew 9:36, NIV]

- ▶ Jesus looked over Jerusalem and wept because they were lost? Who do you have compassion for because they are lost?

- ▶ What should that compassion lead you to do to those individuals or groups of people? How can you help them find the Good Shepherd?

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 4-6]

DAY 4:

“³⁷Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’”
[Matthew 9:37-38, NIV]

- ▶ Do you think this statement is still true today? Do we still need more workers for the harvest of evangelism?

- ▶ How can you be a worker in God’s harvest? What would it look like for you to get out on the field?

DAY 5:

“To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.”
[1 Corinthians 9:22, NIV]

- ▶ What are some examples of things Christians may need to do [or NOT do] in order to share the Good News with someone?

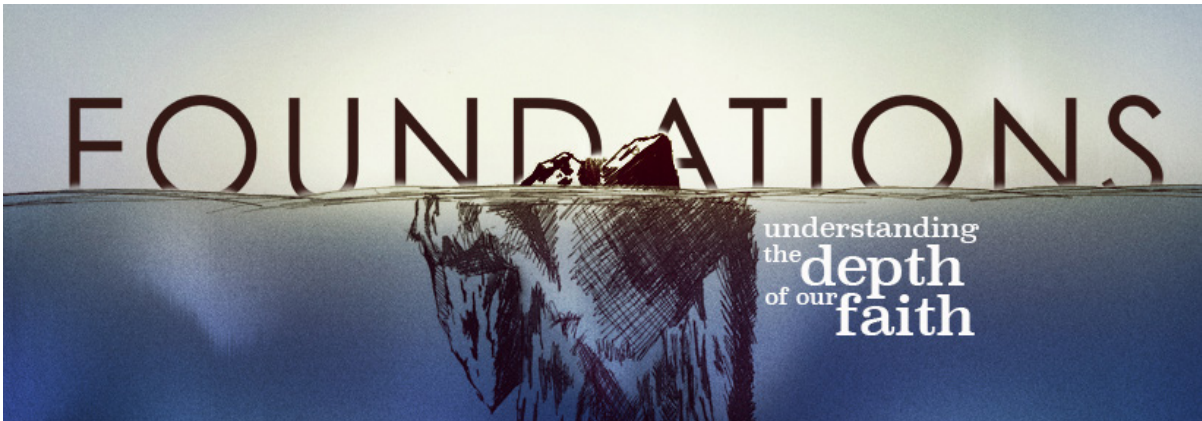
- ▶ What are some things you can do “by all possible means” to reach, win, and save some people?

DAY 6:

“¹⁴How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵And how can anyone preach unless they are sent?”
[Romans 10:14-15a, NIV]

- ▶ How do these verses bring about urgency for evangelism? What happens if there is a missing link in the chain?

- ▶ How can you help others hear and believe? How can you preach/evangelize to others? How can you send others to preach/evangelize?



Week 12 - Passion

WEEK 12 - PASSION

CONNECT QUESTIONS

1. What are some things you have a passion for?
2. What is something you have lost a passion for over the years?
3. How can you see someone has a passion for something? What do they say and do?

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. Read Colossians 2:6-7. What does it look like to ignite a passion for Jesus? How can involvement at WCC help to ignite this passion?
2. Read James 1:22. What does it look like to ignite a passion for the Bible? How can involvement at WCC help to ignite this passion?

3. **Read 1 Corinthians 12:27-30. What does it look like to ignite a passion for the Church? How can involvement at WCC help to ignite this passion?**

4. **Read Matthew 28:18-20. What does it look like to ignite a passion for others? How can involvement at WCC help to ignite this passion?**

5. **This is the third week in a row we have read the Great Commission [Matthew 28:18-20]! Why do you think this Scripture is so important for our Foundations?**

6. **How do the commands of Jesus match up with our mission statement? Discuss how each part of our mission statement relates to Jesus' commands.**
 - a. **Jesus**

 - b. **Bible**

 - c. **Church**

 - d. **Others**

CHANGE QUESTIONS

1. Which passion do you need to ignite: Jesus/Bible/Church/Others?
2. What can you do to fuel your fire for your relationship with Jesus and His Word?
3. How can you help ignite a passion in others through your involvement at WCC and in the community?

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 THE MISSIONS OF THE WEEK

Haitian Island Ministries

Steve & Terry Smith, WCC members

This organization operates medical programs providing free vitamins, medicine, and medical care and feeding programs which provide a daily meal for thousands of Haitian children each month. They also build schools and churches in some of the most remote areas of Haiti. Their medical program has served hundreds of thousands of Haitians. haitianislandministries.org

St. Louis Christian College

SLCC seeks to educate Christians and to graduate leaders who are equipped for service to God. They seek learners who are committed to Christ and highly motivated to serve God and the church; students who are capable of completing the academic rigors of a college education; adults who are willing to acquire both knowledge and skills through service and off-campus learning experiences; and men and women who are drawn from a diversity of geographic, ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds. stlchristian.edu

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 1-3]

DAY 1:

“So 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]

- ▶ When did you receive Jesus Christ as your Lord? What were you taught that has strengthened your faith and passion for him?

- ▶ What does it look like for you to continue to live your life “in him” [Jesus]? Rooted and built up in him? Overflowing with thankfulness?

DAY 2:

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

- ▶ Do you listen AND obey the Word of God? What is the danger of deceiving yourself?

- ▶ Do you have an ignited passion for the Bible? What does that look like? How can you keep the flames burning?

DAY 3:

“27Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 28And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues.”
[1 Corinthians 12:27-28, NIV]

- ▶ Do you consider yourself as a contributing part of the body of Christ? What would make you feel more connected?

- ▶ The Bible lists many ways people can contribute to the body. What are some ways you can contribute?

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 4-6]

DAY 4:

“³⁷Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”
[Matthew 22:37-40, NIV]

- ▶ How are these commandments related to our mission statement?

- ▶ What are some practical ways you can love your neighbor [others] as yourself today?

DAY 5:

“¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”
[Matthew 28:19-20a, NIV]

- ▶ What do you think Jesus meant when he said “go”? [Note: the literal translation should be “as you are going.”]

- ▶ How can you go? Make disciples? Baptize? Teach people to obey Jesus?

DAY 6:

“¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”
[Matthew 28:19-20a, NIV]

- ▶ How do these verses relate to WCC’s mission statement? [Ignite a passion for Jesus, the Bible, the Church, and others.]

- ▶ Which of these passions do you need to ignite? Which part of the Great Commission do you need to work on?
