

The background is a light grey textured surface. It features several horizontal bars of varying widths and colors, including shades of red, purple, teal, and blue, with a watercolor-like texture. The text is centered on these bars.

# *The Foundation Series*

Bible Study for Youth

# The Foundation Series | Bible Study for Youth

## Introduction:

The Foundation Series is an introductory guide for youth groups looking for resources around how to run a regular bible study. It is based off of a resource created by the late Rev. Andre Le Roux for cell group bible study.

This resource provides a simple guide for youth leaders and youth groups, while also lending itself to being adapted to any group age, size and context.

Each lesson contains a basic outline for the weeks lesson, along with a few ideas/suggestions/activities for youth groups to engage with. Each lesson also has an accompanying PowerPoint which can be used to assist in presenting each weeks lesson.

## Purposes:

To help new groups settle in terms of personal relationships and group dynamics

To grow our understanding of what it means to belong to your church or the Methodist church of NZ

To gain commitment to functioning as a cell/youth bible study group

To do Bible study as the basis for all the above

## Some thoughts to consider:

The Foundation Series is, at its core, foundational. It doesn't seek to be too in depth, but rather an introductory level resource for getting young people more engaged in bible study and faith conversations.

This resource may be fully adapted and moulded to your context. If some things need to be tweaked/refined/removed to fit your context, feel free to do so.

It is very important that leaders/session facilitators are as well prepared as possible in leading sessions. The leaders notes are a guide for this, but it may also be helpful for leaders to do a lesson personally before leading the wider group.

This resource is more about *asking questions* than it is about *finding answers*.

Information can be non-transformational — this means that the more we know doesn't always mean we will be transformed in our thinking and being. On the flip side, Transformation can be non-informational — In other words, God can bring forth transformation in ones life, without us even requiring the knowledge of understanding how it happens in the first place!

Journey together with your group, in learning more about the scriptures and mission of the Church, but while all the while being open to non-informational transformation.

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## Basic outline of the course:

- Week 1: Our picture of God (Introductions)
- Week 2: Our life together (Introducing the life of the early church as our model)
- Week 3: Back to a Biblical basis for the Church (The Church: Biblical Purposes)
- Week 4: Love God and love Your neighbour (The Greatest Commandment)
- Week 5: Go into all the world (The Great Commission)
- Week 6: The purpose centred church (Reflecting on John Wesley)
- Week 7: The Christ-centred life (Worship and devotion)
- Week 8: Sharing the Christ-centred life (Fellowship and discipleship)
- Week 9: Offering Christ to the world (Evangelism and service)
- Week 10: From bottle-necks to Flower-pots (Thinking around the church)
- Week 11: From bible study to Wesley/Cell group (Thinking about groups)
- Week 12: From member to minister (Changing the way we think of ourselves)
- Week 13: Where to from here? (Building off the foundation)

# The Foundation Series | Bible Study for Youth

## Group Session 1

### OUR PICTURE OF GOD

#### *Leaders Notes*

#### Introductions:

If there are people in the group that are meeting with you for the first time, open your group with introductions.

(Be creative, don't just stick to names. For example, you may also ask each person to share the last song they listened to, or their favourite movie etc. You may also want to ask each person to share what they hope to get from the group.)

#### Getting Started | Opening Activity

Choose a symbol to *describe your picture of God at this moment in your life*, but leave that symbol lying on the table. When it is your turn to share with the group your reasons for choosing that particular symbol, pick it up and hold it while you talk. We allow each person to share without commentating on what they say — we just receive their words and story as a gift. It is also good to allow a pause before the next person shares so that we can allow the words of the previous speaker to sink in.

(To prepare for this activity, the leader should find a variety of different symbols. For example, keys, seeds, new and old candles, flowers, eggs, glass, wood, shells, wrapped match boxes, nails, thorns, salt, watch, clock, pens, rubber, clothes pegs etc. be as creative as you can!

If this activity works well, it might be worth repeating at the start of each lesson every week. People can start by reminding everyone of their symbol from the previous week, and then share their symbol for this week — whether it has changed or remained the same. You could also add/takeaway various symbols each week.)

#### Focus Reading | Study:

#### Psalm 145

Before jumping into the focus reading, start by doing a quick quiz about King David. This will help to warm everyone up to what they're about to read, as well as identify where the knowledge level is at for the group.

## Quiz questions — David: How well do you know me?

1. What instrument was I highly talented at playing? (The harp)
2. If I got into a fight, what would be my weapon of choice? (Slingshot)
3. What was the name of my side chick and when did I first fall for her? (Bathsheba, saw her bathing)
4. How many poems did I 'write'? (150 Psalms — not all attributed to David)
5. Who was King before I took the throne? (King Saul)

(It's a good idea for the leader to do some personal prep and reading around the focus reading beforehand. This is not to show you are more knowledgeable than every one else, but to show you are well prepared and have some thoughts already prepared to share.)

Some of the key things in David's life worth mentioning may be — his anointing by Samuel [1 Samuel 16], his battle with Goliath and his ancestral links to Jesus.)

READ Psalm 145 — In whatever way works best (groups, silently, one verse each etc.)

## Share any general thoughts or questions on the reading

1. What sort of picture of God does the Psalmist have? Which verses describe his ideas?
2. Which verse describes *your* picture of God? Which verse describes the picture you would like to have?
3. Verse 17 hints at one of the great debates about the nature of God. People are often torn between "God of Justice" and "God of love". If God loves the world, how can He condemn some people to hell?  
What do you think about this conflict? Which is stronger, God's love or God's need for justice?

(Don't get too worried about different ideas here. The debate is worthwhile because it lets the group know that it is OK to raise difficult questions and should also highlight the fact that we have different perspectives on some things.)

Also, don't feel that you need to 'know everything'. The point of these sessions are to engage in good conversation. We're all learning together!

4. How can we begin to redraw/reimagine our picture of God so that it can be closer to who God really is?

(The clue to answering this question is Jesus — Jesus' life, ministry and teaching help us to redraw our picture of God. It may be worth quoting Michael Ramsay for the group: "God is Christ-like and in Him there is no un-Christlikeness at all.")

Closing