

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 bars are arranged in a staggered, descending pattern from top to bottom. The text is centered on the longest bar.

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)

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Group Session | WEEK 3

BACK TO A BIBLICAL BASIS FOR THE CHURCH

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

(You may want to refer to the Opening Activity of Week 1. If not, feel free to skip straight to worship.)

Worship:

Each person looks through the Psalms for a verse or two that they find meaningful. When all are ready, the leader will introduce a time of prayer in which you will read your verse/s and, if you feel comfortable, add a short prayer of your own.

(Note that people may find this threatening, but reassure them of enough time to find a verse that they find meaningful, and that no one has to pray their own prayer. It is important to get the group involved in the worship section because this helps them to participate in expressing their love for God, and their faith. So much of worship is led by others and we are tempted to "spectate". Little exercises like this help us to become more involved in worship and the supportive and accepting atmosphere of the group encourage us to express ourselves and to try new things.)

Focus Reading | Study:

This week we will be exploring a number of different verses in the Gospels and the NT.

Before jumping into the focus reading, start by doing a quick quiz about the Gospels.

(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: How well do you know the Gospels?

1. How many Gospels are there? (4 accounts)
2. What does the word Gospel mean? (Good news)
3. Which Gospel is widely agreed to have been written first? (Mark)
4. Which Gospel is sometimes considered the 'odd book out' and what word do we use to describe the other ones? (John, with the other three being called the *Synoptics*)
5. Which book was 'written' by a tax collector? (Matthew)
6. Which book was written primarily for a Jewish audience? (Matthew)
7. Which book was written primarily for a Roman audience? (Mark)
8. Which book was written primarily for a Greek audience? (Luke)
9. Which book was written primarily for world-wide audience? (John)
10. Which gospel 'authors' had first hand experiences with Jesus? (Matthew and John)

Some quiz answer notes:

Q6 — this comes from Matthews heavy references to the OT (Hebrew Bible). There is also reference to the term *Kingdom of Heaven*, which challenges the Jewish peoples desire for a new King to rescue them from oppression.

Q7 — Mark explains a lot of Jewish traditions that wouldn't need to be explaining to a knowledgeable audience. There are also minimal references to the OT.

Q8 — Luke was from a Gentile world and disciple of Paul, so his writing seeks to appeal to this audience.

Q9 — John's gospel is purposely not synoptic to try not to exclude any one from understanding the Good news message.

Q10 — Matthew and John were from the original 12, with Luke and Mark being converted later. This is a good trick question — normally when you ask someone to name the 12 disciples the first 4 they'll say are Matthew, Mark, Luke and John!

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

Study:

Get different people to look up one of the following Gospel passages and get ready to read. Each person will read their passage and the group will answer this question in light of the passage read.

1. What did Jesus teach His disciples to do while He was here on Earth?

Matt 5.13-16 | Matt 22.36-40 | Matt 25.34-40 | Matt 28.18-20 | Mark 10.43-45 | John 10.14-18 | John 13.34-35 | John 20.21

2. What would Jesus ask us to do if He were here today, living in our area?

(Ask your group to think specifically about your area and context in this question. For e.g. — What Jesus ask us to do in our local community, schools, areas of need etc. This is a good way for us to recognise the ageless quality of Jesus' calling that remains relevant to this very day.

The clue to answering this is found in the previous question verses. Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. If He asked for His disciples help when He was living on earth, how much more does He need that help now that He is seated at the right hand of the Father.)

Read the following passages and answer the following question

3. What dost this passage say about the purpose of the church?

Acts 1.8 | Acts 5.42 | Acts 6.1-7 | Romans 12.3-8 | Romans 15.3-7 | 1 Cor 12.27-13.3 | Galatians 6.1-2 | Ephesians 2.19-22 | Colossians 3.15-16 | 1 Thess 1.3 | Hebrews 13.7,17 | 1 Peter 2.9-10 | 1 John 4.19-21 | Acts 2.41-47

4. From our discussion tonight, what is Jesus asking His church to do today?

(Similar to Q2, ask your group to think specifically about your church and its context in this question.

Also a good idea to encourage the group to read these passages again at home during the week, and to read Matt 22.34-40 in preparation for next week.)

Act of caring:

Our study tonight has been about the purposes that Jesus has given His church. In this week spend about 10mins praying specifically for your church. Pray for your minister, for your leaders and members. Pray that we will fulfil the purposes that we have studied today. Ask God to help us work with Him in making a difference in the world. Also pray that God would help you to find your place in the church if you have been unable to find that place already.

(As strange as it sounds, encourage the group to pray specifically in this prayer — mentioning specific names, places and groups. Often, we pray almost in an attitude of implication, expecting God to decipher our secret language! Don't shy away from being specific and intentional in prayer — both in what we need from God as well as what God has done/is doing in our lives.

NOTES: