

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)

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Group Session | WEEK 5

Go into all the World

Purpose of this study: To explore the importance of the “Great Commission” 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

In the past week, what has your relationship with God looked like?

(You may want to refer to last weeks Opening Activity using pictures [see week 4], or previous weeks using symbols [see weeks 1-3] to answer this question. If not, feel free to skip straight to worship.)

Worship:

In an attitude of prayer, listen as your group leader reads Psalm 46. After the Psalm has been read, listen to [or sing, if comfortable] a worship song as group before praying together.

(Note we are using the same Psalm that was used in Week 2. You may find that it will bring forth new thoughts in prayer, showing the way God can reveal something new when we come back to a familiar passage/idea.

For song ideas, have a look at something relating to calling and purpose. Encourage person to pray a short prayer in response to the and/or music. Everyone can pray out loud at the same time, if comfortable for the group.)

Focus Reading | Study:

Matthew 28.16-20

Before jumping into the focus reading, check out this video which shows how the Gospel spread throughout the world following Jesus' time on earth.

(YT link for the video here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Gp-ZsUagc> or download offline using a YT video downloader online.)

READ: Matthew 28.16-20

Share any general thoughts and questions that might arise from reading this text.

(Bear in mind that some of the thoughts and questions might be covered later on.)

“The Great Commission”, as we call these verses, challenges us to be in service of Jesus. It includes 3 important purposes for the church — EVANGELISM | FELLOWSHIP | DISCIPLESHIP. We will examine each purpose and explore what they mean for the church today.

(You might want to split your group into 3 smaller groups for this exercise, giving a set amount of time for focus on each purpose. Each group can then feedback at the end of the session.)

EVANGELISM

“Go and make disciples of all nations” is the call to evangelism, which is bringing people who don’t believe in God into a relationship with Jesus.

1. Why do you think most modern Christians struggle with evangelism, with seeing the importance of reaching out and bringing people to Christ?
2. Have you ever experienced effective/ineffective evangelism? What made it so?
3. Have you ever practiced evangelism to others? Did it work?
4. What do you think is the best way of telling people about Jesus?

FELLOWSHIP

“Baptising them...” is the call to incorporating people into the church of *fellowship*. It is through baptism that people are made part of the church, but being part of the church takes more than just a sacrament — it is about *belonging* and *participating*.

1. What do you think fellowship means?
2. How do we create a sense of belonging within our church?
3. How do we encourage a mindset of participating within our church?
4. Do you have the balance right between a *communal* and *personal* faith?

DISCIPLESHIP

“Teaching them to obey...” is the purpose of discipleship. By discipleship we mean the process of learning to follow Jesus more closely, of maturing in our faith and following His example set during His time on earth.

1. As you look back on your Christian journey thus far, what has helped you to grow in your walk with Jesus?
2. What do you still need to grow even further?
3. How do we become better equipped to *making* disciples?
4. Why is making disciples even important?

Q: What stood out for you in the discussions tonight?

Putting it into practice:

We have seen how important groups are in terms of learning to follow Jesus (discipleship) and fellowship. Groups are also a good place for evangelism because it provides a safe and caring place for people to meet Jesus.

Consider as a group, inviting a friend to next week's session or an upcoming gathering. They may be Christians already, or be people who are searching for answers; they may need a place to belong or need a challenge to grow. Nearly every one can benefit from belonging to a group, and you, as a group, can be involved in the great commission by inviting people to join you!

(Once again it is important to stress the necessity of putting what we learn into practice. This act of caring is at the heart of why the group exists! We do not exist to get comfortable — but rather to promote the purposes of God! Inviting people into the group will disrupt our comfort zones, but it will also make us part of the divine purposes of God. We will find ourselves becoming a blessing to others.

What greater privilege to know that the person sitting opposite me in the group, who is talking about what Jesus means to them, was brought to the group by my invitation at a time when they were without faith or without purpose in life? This is the very reward of the Great Commission in action!)

Close with prayer

NOTES: