

The background is a light grey textured surface. It features several horizontal bars of varying lengths and colors, including shades of red, purple, teal, and blue, arranged in a staggered, descending pattern. 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)

# The Foundation Series | Bible Study for Youth

Group Session | WEEK 2

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

*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:

Your group leader will guide you in a meditation, based off Psalm 46

(The group leader [or a volunteer] will read Psalm 46 and lead in a time of prayer. The group members do not turn to the Psalm, but listen with eyes closed. Get everyone to close their eyes and relax. Once everyone is settled and silent, ask everyone to "become aware of your breathing. Let the rhythm of each breath help you to settle." After a pause, read Psalm 46 slowly. After another pause, read the Psalm again slowly. After another pause, lead the group in a time of prayer — focussing on God's protective power (Ps 46.1), the joy He brings to our lives (Ps 46.4), and for continued help in seeing Gods work in our lives (Ps 46.8))

(You may want to ask if anyone wants to share anything from the time of worship and prayer. Also, if you might want to have some instrument background music playing during the time of reflection.)

## Focus Reading | Study:

Acts 2:42-47

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

(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 early church?

1. What was the most recent significant event to occur before the formation of the early church? (Pentecost)
2. Where did the early church gatherings take place? (in homes)
3. What does the term "Catholic Church" originally refer to? (Universal Church)
4. Which of the disciples would've been referred to as the head of the early church?
5. Early Christianity was seen as a radical branch off of what religion? (Judaism)

(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 everyone else, but to show you are well prepared and have some thoughts already prepared to share.)

A good idea for prep for this week would be read about Pentecost in the beginning of Acts 2. Pentecost is a catalyst in the formation of the early church, so it would be helpful to have read/studied this beforehand.)

READ Acts 2:41-47 — In whatever way works best (groups, silently, one verse each etc.)

Share any general thoughts or questions on the reading

1. What strikes you about verse 42, 46, 47? What sort of atmosphere do you think was present amongst the believers of that day? In what way are we different in today's church?

(These questions can sometimes lead us down a negative rant about the church today. Try to steer conversation away from that — acknowledging of course the need for the church change in many ways, but focussing more on growing new things and developing new attitudes.)

2. What "wonders and miraculous signs" have you experienced or heard of in your life (v43)?
3. What does verse 44 say about the commitment of the believers to one another? Is this the kind of caring that we would like to see in our group — something that we would like to "grow into"?

(This is an ideal opportunity to grow one of the 'values' that your group will be built on — the value of caring for one another. If the group does respond to this, encourage them to find ways of putting this into practice - For eg. By praying for each other regularly, listening carefully to one another, visiting each other in times of illness or struggle. It is important that as part of a youth/bible study group, there is a genuine spirit of care for one another!)

4. The reading highlights a few activities that the early believers put into practice as they met: FELLOWSHIP, WORSHIP, LEARNING from the Apostles, and ACTS OF CARING. The result of the way they lived together was “the Lord adding to their number daily those who were being saved.” (v47) These things will become the basis of our meeting as a group:

Fellowship — Being open to one another and caring for each other

Worship — Giving God praise (through prayer, poetry, songs, testimonies etc.)

Bible Study — Learning to live in the way of Jesus in all areas of life

Acts of caring — Reaching out to care for each other and those around us

When we do these things, we will find God “adding to our number” as He did in the early church, and will experience the privilege of working with God to change lives! This is also not exclusive to older or more mature believers — its 100% relevant to our young people as well!

5. From the above four areas, which one do you feel most comfortable with? Which do you think needs the most work in your life?

(These areas will be covered again during weeks 11-13 but will be used in some form each week in your group time.)

Act of caring:

Is there someone that you could give a financial gift to in the week? You may want to make this an anonymous gift; you may need to sell something to make it happen; you may need to sacrifice a luxury and put that money into the gift; but in one way or another try to do this one thing in the week that lies ahead.

(Do not ignore this!! Too much of what we learn is avoided because it makes us feel uncomfortable! Further, risking ourselves in loving action proves to be a blessing in nearly every situation of caring — for us and for the person cared for! Do not let this opportunity for caring and blessing be avoided.)

NOTES: