



**DIGGING  
DEEP**  
— TO BUILD TALL —

***A JOURNEY TO DISCIPLESHIP***

# SESSION 1

*THE FOUNDATION OF ALL THINGS NEW*

## SESSION 1: THE FOUNDATION OF ALL THINGS NEW

**A life outside of God's love is lost, dead and unable to live for the purpose God intended, this is because:**

***We have all sinned*** (missed the mark, fallen short)

-Romans 3:10, 3:23

***There are consequences*** (that affect everyone)

-Romans 5:12, 6:23

***Even so, God loved us*** (even when we had no love for Him)

-Romans 5:8

***As we confess and believe*** (so we are saved, rescued)

-Romans 10:9-10

***Become part of God's family*** (you are not on your own)

-Romans 8:15-17

**God has not tried to repair the irreparable, at conversion to Jesus He has made things NEW, this means:**

A new **LIFE** - Romans 6:4

A new **START** - 2 Corinthians 5:17

A new **SONG** - Psalm 40:3

A new **NAME** - Isaiah 62:2

A new **SELF** - Ephesians 4:24

A new **WAY** - Hebrews 10:20

A new **FAMILY** - Ephesians 3:14 - 15

## SESSION 1: THE FOUNDATION OF ALL THINGS NEW

**This journey of faith begins by:**

**RECOGNISING** - That you need God, the only way to Him is through Jesus.  
-John 14:6

**TURNING** - The word repentance means a change of mind that leads to a change of action.  
-Acts 17:30

**BELIEVING** - That Jesus is your Saviour and Lord  
-John 1:12

### TIMEOUT

Realise that God is not asking us to live for Him in the efforts of the 'old life', indeed, 'You'll never keep it up'. No, He has given us a new start and a new self (nature) that longs to follow His ways. We need to nurture it. Read Philippians 1:3-11.

**A Bible verse to memorise:**

'Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!' - 2 Corinthians 5:17

**Some more Bible verses to look at:**

Being a Christian also means we have:

A new **MEANING** in life  
-Psalm 138:8

A new **MASTER** to serve  
-Romans 10:9

A new **MISSION** to engage in  
-Matthew 28:20

## *SESSION 1: THE FOUNDATION OF ALL THINGS NEW*

### **A quote to think on:**

'I remember this, that everything looked new to me...the fields, the animals, the sky, I was a new man in a new world.'

### **A prayer to pray:**

'Father, thank you for your amazing love to me shown in Jesus, Thank you for giving me a new start and making all things new. I yield to you so that I might live my life for your purpose and glory. In Jesus' name, amen.'

### *NOTES:*

# SESSION 2

*THE FOUNDATION OF LORDSHIP*

## SESSION 2: THE FOUNDATION OF LORDSHIP

As Christians a transfer has taken place, (it has cost far more than the multi-millions we see in the world of sport), Jesus paid the price with His life, totally and completely. We have been rescued from the kingdom of darkness and brought (transferred) into the kingdom of the Son (Jesus). (Colossians 1:13)

We used to serve the kingdom of darkness, mostly without realising it, but reflected in our choices, attitudes, values, conversation, priorities and so we could go on.

Things have **CHANGED**; we have received Jesus as Saviour and **LORD**  
-Romans 10:9. So now come under a new authority.

**1 Corinthians 12:3** - The Holy Spirit enables the Christian to say and really mean Jesus is Lord.

**Philippians 2:9-11** - There is a day coming in the future when EVERYONE will confess with their mouth that Jesus is Lord. We have the privilege to do that right now!

**Romans 14:7-8** - Now we recognise we are the Lord's.

So what does the word **LORD** really mean?

Several words can describe it, **GOVERNOR, MASTER, BOSS.**

In everyday terms it's a realisation that Jesus wants to be in charge of our lives, He's the boss, if you like. **JESUS RULES OK!**

This truth is not to bring restriction and limitation to our lives, in fact the very opposite. Jesus loves us and desires to liberate us into His plans and purposes. He simply asks that we trust Him and willingly yield.

### TIMEOUT

Have we come to a place of willingly allowing Jesus to say whatever He wants to, and what about our response? Read Luke 5:1-11 (particularly note v5). Six words here that will really help us build a foundation of Lordship. BYSSIW 'Because you say so I will' - and note the end result!

**A Bible verse to memorise:**

'Therefore God exalted him to the highest place, and gave him a name that is above every name. that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of the Father.' - Philippians 2:9-11

**Some more Bible verses to look at:**

As we continually and increasingly submit to the Lordship of Jesus over our lives, we will find it will impact on our:

***THINKING***

-Romans 12:1-2

***SPEAKING***

-James 3:1-12

***BEHAVING***

-1 Thessalonians 4:3-7

***SERVING***

- John 13:14 - 17

**A quote to think on:**

'No early Christian ever thought of taking Christ as Saviour with the option of taking him as Lord later. The Lordship of Christ is the authentic confession of every believer of every generation.'

**A prayer to pray:**

'Lord, I gladly recognise your rule over my life; I gladly and willingly give every area of my life to you. Cause me to be a loyal subject to you, King Jesus, in Christ's name, amen.'



*SESSION 2: THE FOUNDATION OF LORDSHIP*

*NOTES:*

# SESSION 3

*THE FOUNDATION OF RELATIONSHIP*

## SESSION 3: THE FOUNDATION OF RELATIONSHIP

It has truly been said 'Christianity is not a religion but a relationship', and so it is. God wants to enjoy a friendship, relationship and communion with His people. He wants to be on 'Best Friend' terms with us, all the time.

As with any thriving prospering relationship, it needs to be cultivated by ongoing communication. God has not left us floundering here. We are going to consider the two major ways of developing our relationship with God: Prayer and the Bible.

### PRAYER:

Prayer is all about communication. Talking to God and listening to Him (it is not likely you will hear an audible voice, but God speaks through a number of ways, the Bible, Preaching & Teaching, Inner Conviction, the Holy Spirit amongst others. As you grow spiritually you will become more sensitive to His voice to you).

### Let's look at some different ASPECTS OF PRAYER:

Prayer and **THANKS**

-1 Timothy 2:1

Prayer and **CONFESSION**

-1 John 1:9

Prayer and **ASKING**

-Matthew 7:7, James 4:2

Prayer and **LISTENING**

-1 Samuel 3:10-11

Prayer and **OBEYING**

-Matthew 26:39

### THE BIBLE:

It is a big book! 66 books in fact, rolled into one. But the Bible is unique in that it has been 'breathed on' by God (2 Timothy 3:16), it is His word to us! It also has an enduring quality (1 Peter 1:23-25), it is a NOW word.

## SESSION 3: THE FOUNDATION OF RELATIONSHIP

Here are some of the ways the Bible describes itself in impacting our lives:

**FIRE** - Jeremiah 23:29

**A LAMP** - Psalm 119:105

**A MIRROR** - James 1:23

**MILK** - 1 Peter 2:2

**A SEED** - 1 Peter 1:23

**A SWORD** - Hebrews 4:12

**WATER** - Ephesians 5:26

**GOLD** - Psalm 19:7-10

**BREAD** - Matthew 4:4

**MEAT** - Hebrews 5:14

**AN ANCHOR** - Hebrews 6:19

Seek to read the Bible REGULARLY, PRAYERFULLY, CAREFULLY, OPENLY, HONESTLY and SYSTEMATICALLY. Have a plan that helps you in your Bible reading journey, and let God speak to YOU!

### TIMEOUT

Talk through any issues you may have in this area to help your relational walk with God move forward. Consider also how practically you can create time for Prayer and Bible reading.

Read Matthew 6:5-15.

**Bible verses to memorise:**

'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path' - Psalm 119:105

Pray continually' - 1 Thessalonians 5:17

## *SESSION 3: THE FOUNDATION OF RELATIONSHIP*

### **Some more Bible verses to look at:**

As you pray seek to do so:

#### ***ACTIVELY***

- Matthew 6:6

#### ***PERSISTENTLY***

- Luke 18:1

#### ***UNSELFISHLY***

- James 4:3

#### ***SENSITIVELY***

- Romans 8:26-27

#### ***EXPECTANTLY***

- Hebrews 11:6

### **Quotes to think on:**

'Prayer is not the least we can do - it is the most'

'The Bible needs to get into us, so we must get into the Bible'

### **A prayer to pray:**

'Father, thank you that you want a relationship with each of us. Help me to draw closer to you by communicating with you and also responding to your ways. I ask this in Jesus' name, amen.'

### ***NOTES:***

# SESSION 4

*THE FOUNDATION OF DISCIPLESHIP*

## SESSION 4: THE FOUNDATION OF DISCIPLESHIP

God does not want us just to be believers, but also DISCIPLES. Disciple literally means 'one who learns from another', 'a learner'. This is a lifetime journey for all Christians; we never get to take the "L' plates' off.

Here are five basic expressions of the walk of a disciple:

### 1. OBEYING

Note two specific ways to express obedience to God's commands.

#### ***Water Baptism***

Acts 2:38, Acts 2:41 - The New Testament teaches that baptism is by FULL immersion, the word means submerge, plunge, and is for BELIEVERS. It symbolises by an OUTWARD action what has taken place INWARDLY in the heart. The command is to 'BE BAPTISED'.

#### ***Breaking of Bread***

This is an opportunity in the context of fellowship with other Christians to remember the sacrifice of Jesus. We do so simply by taking some bread (His broken body), and drink from a cup (The New Covenant in my Blood).

1 Corinthians 11:17-33 speaks of this, and reminds us to 'do this...in remembrance of me'.

### 2. THIRSTING

The disciples were worried about the thought of Jesus leaving them, Jesus promised the Holy Spirit (the Counsellor - 'one who stands alongside') to them - ***John 16:5-8***. His last command to the disciples was to '***Wait for the gift my Father promised...***', referring to the Holy Spirit, ***Acts 1:8***.

The promised infilling (often described as the Baptism of the Holy Spirit) is described in ***Acts 2:1-4*** and in other passages in Acts. Jesus said '***If anyone is THIRSTY let him come to me and drink***' - ***John 7:37***. He was speaking about the Holy Spirit.

### 3. SUBMITTING

We have already seen that in giving our lives to Jesus, we come under a new authority, finding out the Lord's ways and yielding to them. The Bible encourages us to submit to each other ***Ephesians 5:21***, also to help us, God has given leaders to the church (pastors, the word means shepherd) to feed, care and lead the flock (the local church group). They are accountable (***Hebrews 13:17, James 3:1, 1 Peter 5:1-4***). Our responsibility is to recognise this and have a submissive heart and life to the leadership and direction they seek to bring to the church (***Hebrews 13:17, 13:7***).

## 4. WITNESSING

A witness is one who speaks and shares from personal experience. At the end of each of the gospels Jesus encouraged the disciples to be witnesses for Him (**Matthew 28:18 - 20, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:45-48, John 20:21**). How did we get an understanding of Christianity? Someone shared with us, that's our calling too.

Don't get over anxious about this, none of us knows the answer to every question put to us, and knowledge of the Bible will grow in time.

Three things we can witness to;

- 1) What life was like before you became a Christian
- 2) How you made a decision to follow Christ
- 3) The difference Jesus has made to your life

Share your faith **NATURALLY, HONESTLY, RESPECTFULLY** - 1 Peter 3:15

And share your faith by;

### **BEING SOMETHING - WALK**

- 1 John 1:7

### **DOING SOMETHING - WORKS**

- James 2:26

### **SAYING SOMETHING - WORDS**

- Mark 5:19

There are all sorts of situations where you go that others cannot - family, work, education, social, sport etc. Be a witness at all times 'Walking the walk 24/7'.

## 5. RESPONDING

As we have already realised, a journey is under way, a lifetime devotion to Jesus, becoming more and more like Him. It is therefore important that we keep responsive in our hearts. **James 1:21-25** is a good encouragement to this end. Notice a RECEIVING of the Word v21, a REACTION to the Word v22-24, RESULTS of the Word v25, '...be blessed', keep open to all God is saying to you through His word.



## *TIMEOUT*

Discuss these five areas of the disciples walk. Apply them practically to issues and areas of your life, thinking particularly how it impacts you and others.

### **A Bible verse to memorise:**

'This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.' - John 15:8

### **Some more Bible verses to look at:**

The commitment of a disciple is a commitment to:

#### ***THE MASTER***

-Matthew 9:9

#### ***THE WORD OF GOD***

-John 8:31-32

#### ***BEARING FRUIT***

-John 15:8

#### ***OTHERS***

- John 13:34-35

#### ***SHARING THE FAITH***

- Matthew 28:19-20

### **A quote to think on:**

'As the soldier follows his general, as the servant follows his master, as the scholar follows his teacher, as the sheep follows its shepherd, so ought the professing Christian follow Christ.'

### **A prayer to pray:**

'Lord, I truly submit my life and heart to You, not just as a believer but as a disciple. In Your grace help me to continually learn of Your ways and then put them into practice in my life, for Your glory, amen.'

# SESSION 5

*THE FOUNDATION OF FELLOWSHIP*

## SESSION 5: THE FOUNDATION OF FELLOWSHIP

We are now going to look at the important truth of being part of a community of like-minded believers. The Bible clearly teaches that BELIEVING involves BELONGING. Christianity is not a solitary walk. We are in the Bible described as SHEEP – they are a ‘flock animal’, made for togetherness! - The New Testament speaks of the church in two ways, **UNIVERSAL** (all the Christian believers in the world) – **Matthew 16:18**, and **LOCAL** – **1 Corinthians 1:2** (Much of the New Testament is communication with local churches of that day). Today, God works through the local church; it is ‘the hope of the world’.

Fellowship means companionship, sharing, gathering. It involves OTHER PEOPLE, therefore it is very important that each of us belong to a local group of believers (the local church). Church is not about a BUILDING (although it is a blessing to be able to meet in a good building) but PEOPLE. We do not GO to church we ARE church.

Realise NO local church group of believers is PERFECT (How can it be we are part of it!) It is easy to be critical and negative, don't go there.

If this is the church where God has placed you, give yourself to it by:

### **GATHERING REGULARLY**

-Hebrews 10:25

There are regular opportunities to meet to worship God, Hear his Word, pray and share. Realise also that to meet in social settings, over a meal, or for a day out etc, are all valid expressions of gathering and fellowship.

### **THINKING OF OTHERS**

There is a whole list of ‘one anothers’ in the New Testament that encourage us to reach out to each other in mutual love and relationship. For example:

**Love one another** – John 13:34

**Consider one another** – Hebrews 10:24

And so we could go on, you get the idea, as you give in these areas so you will receive from others.

### **SERVING WITH YOUR TALENTS AND GIFTS**

-1 Peter 4:10

No one person can do everything in the church, and it is not God's purpose that it should be this way. There are a whole raft of ways, practically and spiritually to serve the church. God will help you in talking with others, praying and submitting to local church leaders to discover where you fit at this time with your unique contribution.

## SESSION 5: THE FOUNDATION OF FELLOWSHIP

Don't stand aloof from fellowship, it is vital to your spiritual well being. The early church in the book of Acts devoted themselves to amongst other things **FELLOWSHIP - Acts 2:42** - we should do likewise, consistently, loyally, and enthusiastically.

### TIMEOUT

Are you committed to a local group of believers? Discuss where you feel your area of service could be, and also highlight the blessings and benefits of belonging and contributing to a local church.

#### A Bible verse to memorise:

'Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the day approaching.'  
-Hebrews 10:25

#### Some more Bible verses to look at:

##### **SERVE ONE ANOTHER**

-1 Peter 4:10

##### **HONOUR ONE ANOTHER**

-Romans 12:10

##### **FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER**

-Ephesians 4:32

##### **SPUR ON ONE ANOTHER**

- Hebrews 10:24

#### A quote to think on:

'A person who says they believe in God, but never becomes part of his Church, is like the person who says they believe in education but has never gone to school.'

#### A prayer to pray:

'Father, thank you for not only saving me as an individual, but also for joining me to God's family, expressed in the church I belong to. May I be a blessing and encouragement to them, and them to me, in Jesus' name, amen'.

# SESSION 6

*THE FOUNDATION OF STEWARDSHIP*

## SESSION 6: THE FOUNDATION OF STEWARDSHIP

In growing as Christians, the realisation increasingly develops that we are not living just for ourselves or to do our 'own thing', but living our life for the glory of God. Applying the principles of stewardship to living will help us do exactly that.

**Luke 16:2 ASV** - 'Give account of your stewardship' - a steward is one 'who is in charge of a property belonging to someone else', see **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**. Note three areas where stewardship is worked out.

### **STEWARDSHIP OF TIME - Psalm 90:12, Ephesians 5:16**

'Time never takes time off'. It is a uniform gift to all of us, we need to use it wisely and carefully.

So let's **RECOGNISE** - life is short (**James 4:14**), God does not want us to be lazy (**Proverbs 6:6**), see time as an opportunity and not an opponent (**Colossians 4:5**).

Let's also **ORGANISE** - make time for God (Luke 4:42), family (**Deuteronomy 6:7**), work responsibilities (**Ephesians 6:6-7**), God's family (**Hebrews 10:25**), rest and relaxation (**Mark 6:31**).

Thirdly, let's **PRIORITISE** - **Matthew 6:33-34, John 5:30**.

### **STEWARDSHIP OF GIFTS**

Speaking here of the development of our talents/gifts, particularly in the context of being a blessing to the church God has planted us in.

We need to: **ACCEPT THE TRUTH** - **1 Peter 4:10**, we have all got something to contribute, see **Romans 12:3-8**, begin to increasingly think of your contribution.

We need to **ACCEPT THE DISCIPLINE**. As other people seek to help your development, with an attitude of openness and readiness to be helped, corrected and counselled.

We need to **ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE** - **Matthew 25:29**. It is not a question of how many talents you have got, but what do you do with what you have been blessed with. Do not neglect your gift - **2 Timothy 1:6-7**.

### **STEWARDSHIP OF MONEY**

There are hundreds of references to this subject in the Word. As stewards recognising all belongs to the Lord, God gives us some help in how we can bless Him and His work through regular giving.

Recognise a **BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE** - **1 Chronicles 29:11-13, Acts 20:35**. God is the source of our opportunity to give and giving is a blessing, to you as the giver and to the recipient.

See also a **BIBLICAL DIRECTION** - The two words that are often used to describe giving are Tithes & Offerings. In the Old Testament the tithe (a tenth) was given to support the priests who served (**Leviticus 27:30-33**, see also **Malachi 3:10**), and Jesus affirmed tithing in the NT (**Matthew 23:23**).

## SESSION 6: THE FOUNDATION OF STEWARDSHIP

Offerings were also given (**1 Chronicles 29:9, 2 Corinthians 9:6-8**). Remember all of what we have is God's. He gives us the privilege to give back a proportion of that to bless and support the ministry in the church (**1 Timothy 5:17-18**).

Finally, see **BIBLICAL ATTITUDES**, it is from our HEART that giving must come, let's do so WILLINGLY (**1 Chronicles 29:9**), CHEERFULLY (**2 Corinthians 9:7**), REGULARLY (**1 Corinthians 16:2**), and GENEROUSLY (**2 Corinthians 8:2**).

As you can see stewardship touches every area of our lives, it is now our responsibility to take care of all that God has entrusted to us, and to live with a generous and kind spirit in a way that will be a blessing to others. We all want to hear the affirming words of Jesus '**Well done good and faithful servant**' - **Matthew 25:23**.

### TIMEOUT

Talk through the three areas highlighted. Consider whether there needs to be any adjustments or changes in lifestyle, to enable a fulfilling of the call to be a good steward of God's gifts to us.

#### A Bible verse to memorise:

'But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added as well.' -Matthew 6:33

#### Some more Bible verses to look at:

These references encourage a generous heart and attitude - **2 Corinthians 8:1-7, 2 Corinthians 9:6-9, Proverbs 11:25**.

#### A quote to think on:

'When we give to God, we are taking our hands off what already belongs to Him.'

'I have a minute given to me, can't refuse it, didn't seek it, didn't choose it, I must suffer if I lose it, give account if I abuse it, a little minute - but eternity is in it.'

#### A prayer to pray:

'Lord, thank you that every good gift to my life comes from you. Help me to use these gifts wisely and appropriately, and in all of my responses honour you and bless others always, in Jesus' name, amen.'



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