

Devote Yourself

Congratulations, your friend has gotten baptized! We know the scriptures say that after someone gets baptized we need to “teach them to obey” everything Jesus commanded. This is a set of studies to “follow up” from their baptism. Here are a couple base line principles on helping your friend mature.

Meet once a week for dtime/follow up study - Matthew 28:18-20

These studies were designed to build on each other. Make it your goal to meet once a week to continue to help your friend mature in the faith. We need just as much help after we get baptized as before we get baptized. **Hold them accountable to the challenges.** While you might be the older disciple - don't just make it a time for your friend, one of the most powerful things you can do is lead by example - confess your sins, share about your struggles, tell them what you are growing in and learning.

Share your life also, not just the gospel - 1 Thess 2:7-8

Make it your goal to hang out with the person you are discipling at least once a week outside of your dtimes/follow up studies. You shouldn't have your friends in one group and the people you are discipling in another, make it your goal to become great friends with the people you are discipling. Pull them into your life.

Pull them into a Study - 2 Cor 5:14-21

We need to get in studies and share our faith to save our own souls. Reaching back into the darkness to help people is one of the greatest reminders of what God has pulled us out of. They have a new identity now as Christ's Ambassador, the sooner they can claim that the better.

Devote Yourself - Acts 2:42

These studies were built off of Acts 2:42. It says all the baby christians that had just gotten baptized devoted themselves to 4 key things. The simple concept is - if the 1st ever batch of young disciples committed their lives to this in order to grow and mature, then it's the best place for us to start also. There are 2 studies for each of the 4 areas they devoted themselves too -

Apostles Teaching

- Greatest Commandment
- Great Commision

Fellowship

- One another - Love/Encourage
- One another - Teach/Admonish

Breaking of Bread

- Communion/Remember
- Grace/Love of God

Prayer

- Deeper Prayer/Fasting
- Deeper Biblestudy

Breaking Bread - Communion/Remember

Objective: To devote ourselves to communion. To build a conviction on **why we have, and what to do during communion** and to **remember what God has done for them.**

Why do you think we have communion? What do you usually think about during communion?

Luke 22:19-20, Matt 26:26-28

- This is a time where we can refocus and remember Jesus.

1 Corinthians 11:17-32

Communion used to be a whole meal that they would share together.

- How can you take communion in an unworthy manner? Yes there is actually a wrong way!
- Part of remembering Christ is examining ourselves, making sure Christ's love is still compelling us. This should inspire us to unite with our brothers and sisters and to push off sin.
- This a great time to look at the past week and confess your sins, however remember the focus isn't on you and your sin - it is on the love of Christ. This isn't a time of self pity, but more a realignment to remain in Christ - John 6:48-59

Acts 20:7

We celebrate communion every Sunday because we see the first century church celebrating on the first day of the week.

- **Hebrews 12:1-4** - What an incredible opportunity that we get to remember Jesus and realign ourselves to Him every week!

What are some things you can remember about Jesus during communion?

Take communion together. Go back and forth sharing about things you can remember about Jesus. Here are some ideas.

- **His Grace** - John 8:1-11, Isaiah 53:1-7
- **His Power** - Matthew 8:23-27, Revelation 5
- **His Love** - Matthew 9:35-38, 2 Cor 5:14-15
- **His Cross** - Matthew 27-28, Philippians 2:5-11
- **His Intensity** - Matthew 4:1-11, John 2:13-17

Challenge:

Write out your conversion story. Thank God for each step along the way that He pursued you, was with you through the hard times, and never gave up on you. Remember the cross - you would never be here if it wasn't for that.

Breaking Bread - Love/Grace of God

Objective: To devote ourselves to a deeper **understanding of God's love for us** and to viewing ourselves the way **God views us under grace instead of the way we view ourselves.**

How confident are you in God's love? When do you doubt His love and forgiveness?

Hosea 2:14-23

- What relationship does God say He has with us?
- The church is the bride of Christ. The bible is His marriage vows.

Romans 8:31-39

- Can anything separate you from the love of Christ? So in those times you doubt, does Christ's love actually waver or your view of His love? Need to rewrite your view of God with the bible instead of your own thoughts.
- Vs 34 - you can't condemn, beat up yourself. You are a more than a conqueror because of Christ's Love.

How is your relationship with your father? How does you view your earthly father distort your view of your Heavenly Father?

Romans 8:14-17

- Instead of a spirit of fear - what spirit did you receive?
- **God Chose you** - God has adopted you as His son/daughter. You can't choose what child you birth, but you can choose what child you adopt.
- **God Believes in you** - Says we are heirs of God. If God dies (don't worry He won't) then you are next up to take over everything He has. Including His throne.

Luke 15

- **Vs 3-7: He won't forget you** - Even if you wander off He will leave everyone else to come find you. Risk 99% to win 1% - His Love defies logic and math.
- **Vs 8-10: He will never stop searching for you**
- **Vs 11-32: He celebrates you**

Matthew 28:16-20

- **He is with you always** - even when you doubt and are struggling

How do you view yourself?

1 Peter 2:9-10 - How God views you

Challenge: Make a list in your journal listing the ways you can tend to view yourself on one side, and the way God views you and the scriptures to back them up on the other.

Apostles Teachings - Greatest Commandment

Objective: To devote ourselves to **our true purpose - Loving God**, and understanding how we can **live out a love for God in our lives.**

What was your purpose before you became a Christian? What is your purpose now as a disciples?
What's the difference between your purpose and your mission?

- Your purpose is why you were created, the reason you exist. This is where you get fulfillment. Your mission is your calling, a life long task assigned to you. Your purpose gives your mission meaning.

Matthew 22:34-40/Mark 12:28-34

- Why does Jesus say this is the greatest commandment? What does it mean that all the law and the prophets hang on these two commandments? (1 Cor 13)
 - Everything we do has to come back to loving God. There is no action in the christian walk that doesn't have its source in loving God.
 - How can you shift your fulfillment and purpose to loving God instead of loving people?
- Loving God with "All" can be scary, it takes a lot of trust to love Him with all through hard times. Why do you want to be "All In" with God? How did God love you with His all?
- Are you all in right now? What do you think that looks like to love God with all?

Sacrificial Commitment

- **1 John 3:16 & 4:7-10**
 - How did Jesus love us? True love isn't an emotional indulgence, it is a sacrificial commitment.

Loving others

- **1 John 4:11-21**
 - Why is our love for God made complete by loving others? Why is vs 20 true?

Obedience

- **1 John 5:1-5 & 2:15-17**
 - Why is love for God keeping His commands?
 - You fill up your life with what you love, do you find yourself thinking, dreaming, stressing, talking about things of this world or God? How can you remove the love of the world from your life and replace that with Love of God?

Challenge: Memorize the Greatest commandment together. Read 1 John. Decide one way that you can live out each of these three areas this week.

Apostles Teachings - Great Commission

Objective: To devote ourselves to **the mission Jesus gave us - making disciples, to claim our new identity as Christ's ambassador,** and to **understand the heart behind evangelism.**

What was your mission before you became a disciple? What is your mission now? Are you excited about that or does it scare you?

Matthew 28:18-20

- This is the mission for all disciples, not just preachers/evangelists. (Acts 8:1-4)
- **Luke 10:19** - This was also Jesus' mission
- How will this change your life? How can you live out this mission in your daily life? Can you think of anyone you can talk to this week?

John 15:1-10

- Bearing fruit is making disciples and character/action change (Col 1:6,10)
- Our purpose is to love Jesus - to remain in Him and His love.
- Why would remaining in Jesus cause you to bear fruit? What does Jesus need to prune in your life to make you more fruitful?

What could hinder you from sharing your faith?

- **Self Pleasing - John 12:23-26**
 - Why do you have to die in order to produce many seeds?
- **People Pleasing - John 12:42-43**
 - How does people pleasing stop you from acknowledging Jesus?

What should inspire you to make disciples and share your faith?

- **Faith - 2 Cor 4:13-15** - Why should faith inspire?
- **Fear - 2 Cor 5:6-11** - Why should awe-filled fear inspire?
- **Love - 2 Cor 5:12-15** - Why should love inspire?
- How can you make these yours? How can these things push past your self and people pleasing?

Your new Identity - 2 Cor 5:16-21

- What is an ambassador? What else do you want to be known for besides Jesus? Are you willing to make Christ your identity instead of those things?
- How much does Jesus trust and believe in you that He says that you are His main representative of heaven on this earth?

Exercise: Plan a time to share your faith together. Could be immediately.

Challenge: Pray everyday for God to make you bold and lead you to an open person. Learn to share as you go- with one person a day. Make it your goal to have a visitor at church service.

Prayer - Deeper Prayer

Objective: To devote ourselves to a **deep prayer life with God**. To understand our **need for prayer and how to structure our prayers**.

Is it easier for you to pray or to read scripture? What does your prayer life look like now? How often? What do you pray about? What do you want to learn about prayer? Any answered prayers recently?

Need for Prayer

Luke 5:12-16

- Why did Jesus often withdraw to to pray even amongst all his business? Where do you usually go to recharge, or be refreshed? Why did He go to lonely places?
- So many other fake motivations in this World, need to have time to remember that God is the main reason we are doing this and not people. (Matt 6:5-8)

Luke 6:12-16

- Why did Jesus spend the whole night praying?
- His decisions needed prayer. He believed prayer was more important than sleep. What if He only prayed 10 min - would He have picked the same apostles? Prayed until it wasn't Him, but God making the decisions. What would look different in your life if you prayed through all big decisions?

Luke 18:1-8

- Understanding our deep need for God and prayer should inspire us to pray all the time. Not just daily but multiple times a day.

How to Pray

● **Basic Structure - Matthew 6:9-13**

- During your prayer have a time of praise(v9), for people to turn to Him and join His Kingdom(v10), through physical details and needs(v11), for you and your friends righteousness and growth(v12-13)

● **Pray with Faith - Matthew 11:18-22**

- Do you pray like you believe something is going to happen?
- Prayer without faith is just talking. Prayer builds faith.

● **Pray through your Heart - Matthew 26:36-46**

- When Jesus was overwhelmed He spent several hours praying, going back repeatedly to God until His heart had changed. Prayer should change us.
- Do you pray until your heart is in a different spot? Truly giving it over to God means you are a different place after you pray than before your pray.

Exercise: Plan an extended time to pray together. Could be immediately.

Challenge: Schedule a time to pray everyday. Practice basic structure of prayer. Make a list of people you can pray through and/or with. Pray with someone in fellowship.

Prayer - Deeper Bible Study

Objective: To devote ourselves to **deep, daily time in God's Word**. To understand our **need His Commands** and learn **how to go deeper into the Scriptures**.

How is your daily time in Gods Word? What are you reading? Are you getting much out of it? What do you want to learn about going deeper in your Bible study?

Need for God's Word

Duet 8:1-5

- (v3) If you go a couple days without food(bread) you are starving - if you go a couple days without God's Word what is your spirit feeling?
- Can you imagine life without food(bread)? Why can we imagine life without the Word of God if our spirit's need it just as much?

Duet 6:1-9

- Why does He want us to talk about God's commands all the time and put them everywhere?
- How much do you talk about God's Word? You can tell what you love and need by what you talk about.

How to go Deeper

- **Meditation - Psalm 1:1-6**
 - What separates the wicked and the righteous? What is the difference between meditating on the scriptures and reading the scriptures?
 - Letting only scriptures fill your mind, don't think about anything else. Break verse down piece by piece. Put your phone down, find a place you won't get distracted.
- **Memorization - Psalm 119:9-16**
 - Hiding God's Word in His heart (memorization) kept Him pure
 - How often do you memorize scriptures? God's Words should change you. When you have you qts do you plan on it changing you?
- **Materials - Psalm 119:17-24**
 - Materials to help you see the wonderful things in the law of Christ
 - Look up greek - blueletterbible.org; big picture videos - thebibleproject.com; look up when, where, by who and to who book was written - biblegateway.com; explore hard questions and deeper thoughts - douglasjacoby.com
 - Ideas to Study out: Read all NT. Specific character (Moses, Elijah, David, Peter). Specific theme (prayer, humility, faith, questions of Jesus, Jesus interactions with people). Specific book/books (Romans, 1&2 Timothy, Psalms)

Exercise: Pick a couple verses to meditate on for 15 min silently. Share what you learned.

Challenge: Schedule a time daily to get dig into the scriptures. Keep a journal that you write what you learned and what you want to do each day based off of what you read. Talk about God's Word every fellowship.

Fellowship - One Another Way (Love/Encourage/Serve)

Objective: To devote ourselves to **loving, encouraging, and serving one another**. To understand **what could keep us from giving to one another** and **what it looks like to love one another**.

There are 61 different passages in the new testament that talk about “one another”. This is one of the strongest themes in the NT and is commonly referred to as the “One Another Way” way.

Why

1 John 4:7-11

- Why does John say that since God loved us, we should love one another?

1 Cor 12:15-26

- If we are parts of the body, what can't we say to each other? Why do you need the brothers/sisters in your life? Would you be where you are now without them?

What

Acts 2:42-47

- The first disciples did everything together, why do you think they did that?
- Put this scripture in your own words if we were to live this out today. (go vs by vs)

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

- Is it a strength or weakness of yours to form a cord of three strands - aka deep, close, spiritual relationships? Who are your closest friends right now? What do you think you would need to change in your mindset and actions to go deeper with the brothers/sisters in your life?

How

Love - John 13:34-35 (Defining mark of disciples)

- How are you doing at this? How can you grow? (love past cliques, hobbies, sacrifice time)

Encourage - Hebrews 3:12-14 (Daily commitment)

- How are you doing at this? How can you grow? (cards, appreciation, encouragement dates)

Serve - John 13:1-17 (Daring humility)

- How are you doing at this? How can you grow? (serve the poor, kids classes, rides)

Roadblocks

Philippians 2:1-5 (Damaging attitude)

- How does selfish stop you from loving and encouraging people?
- What are some ways you can look to the interest of others instead of towards yourself?

Exercise: Spends some time sending out thoughtful, meaningful texts of encouragement to a few brothers/sisters you want to encourage.

Challenge: Guys - set up and go on a date. Girls - write a card of encouragement to someone you are grateful for in the ministry.

Fellowship - One Another Way (Teach/Admonish)

Objective: To devote ourselves to **teaching and admonishing one another**. To understand how **correction and discipline are in love, our need for it, and how to do it.**

Didáskō - Teach

Noutheteó - Admonish, to put on one's mind. To warn. Can be uplifting or corrective.

Why

Hebrews 12:4-13

- Why would you discipline someone if you love them? How do you receive correction/discipline? Do you make light of it? Lose heart? Or receive it as love?

Proverbs 15:31 & 16:25

- Why can correction be life giving? How have you lived out 16:25 in your own life?

What

Proverbs 27:5-6, 17 (Trusting, Sharpening, friendships)

- Why can wounds from a friend be trusted? Who has sharpened you spiritually? Is it a strength or weakness of yours to develop “sharpening” one another friendships?

Galatians 1:11-14

- Paul had deep respect and love for Peter - yet to help Him he “opposed him to his face”

How

Colossians 1:28-29 (Go after discipling)

- Paul was saying how hard he fights to help people mature. We need a discipler in our life that is fighting to help us mature. How do you feel about having a spiritual mentor?

Colossians 3:15-17, Hebrews 10:23-25 (Go after helping your friends)

- We all need to be teaching and admonishing people. How can you correct your friends and roommates in the moment? Why does it say to “consider” how you spur one another on?

1 Thessalonians 5:12-15 (Go after discernment)

- Discernment is understanding that everyone has different needs and how to meet those needs. Who does it say to warn, encourage, help? What does that look like?

Roadblocks

1 Peter 5:5-9

- How does pride hinder you from receiving correction? How can you humble yourself before God in this area?
- Satan wants you to be prideful so he can devour you

Exercise: Share something you appreciate in the other person then share something you see you think the other person can grow in. Then swap and other person share about you. Pray.

Challenge: Who are three people you can ask what you can grow in this week? Be humble to them.