

Second Steps

For Christ Followers



GRACE
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Welcome to Series 2

The Gospel is the good news of the salvation that's available to all who will believe. The Gospel is the power of God for salvation. At its core, the Gospel is about the lost who are found; those who are dead that God brings to life; and the spiritually orphaned becoming adopted into God's family.

Book 1 of this series (First Steps for New Christ Followers) gives the basic outline of what it means to know and trust Jesus as Savior & Lord. In that book we covered the basics of Christian beliefs. In part two, we'll take a dive deeper into some foundational beliefs that will help you come to know & love Jesus more and more.

**As with the last study, this material has been adapted from Ray Cardwell's "Making Disciples" series of study booklets. **

Disciples Who Make Disciples

Introduction

Discipleship is one of the most common words used in churches, yet many of us have not found a way to make it real in our lives. This booklet is the second tool in our series that every believer can use to help other believers to become disciple makers. Discipleship is a lifelong pursuit. The key to this series is that it is transferable and repeatable. It is not overwhelming. It is intended to support your life long journey of helping other people find and follow Jesus Christ.

The goal of this study is for you to grow in our 5 discipleship outcomes.

- Looks up to God daily practicing the spiritual disciplines.
- Looks in at oneself to assess a life reflecting The Fruit of The Spirit.
- Looks across at others weekly in fellowship and accountability.
- Looks out for others by serving with their time, talent, and treasure.
- Looks around for the lost by living sent to their neighbors and the nations.

Series 2

The topics in this study are designed to establish each believer in the **Foundations of the Faith.**

Series Outline

INTRO	The Gospel	What is the gospel?
Section 1	Jesus	Who is Jesus?
Section 2	Salvation	What happens when we believe in Christ?
Section 3	Resurrection	Why is the resurrection so important?
Section 4	Ambassadors	What does Jesus expect of me?
Section 5	Studying The Bible	How do I study Scripture?
Section 6	The New Self	How can I renew my mind?
Section 7	The Holy Spirit	How does The Holy Spirit work in my life?
Section 8	Living by Faith	How do I walk a life of faith?
Section 9	Suffering & Tests	How do I handle trials in my life?
Section 10	Living by Grace	How can I have a grace-filled life?

Reviewing the Starting Point

What is the Gospel? What must I do to be Saved?

The Gospel

The Gospel is the Good News of Jesus Christ. It is the starting point for the Christian faith. Paul gives us a concise summary of the Gospel:

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures

1 Corinthians 15:1–4

Creation: The Background

God _____ heaven and earth.

Genesis 1:1

God _____ us.

Romans 5:8

God wants a _____ with us.

2 Peter 3:9

We were created to be in relationship with God.

However a love relationship requires the freedom to choose.

Fall: The Need

All have _____ and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23

The penalty of sin is _____.

Romans 6:23

As a consequence of rejecting God's design for life,
we are all spiritually dead, separated from God.

Romans 5:12

Redemption: The Good News

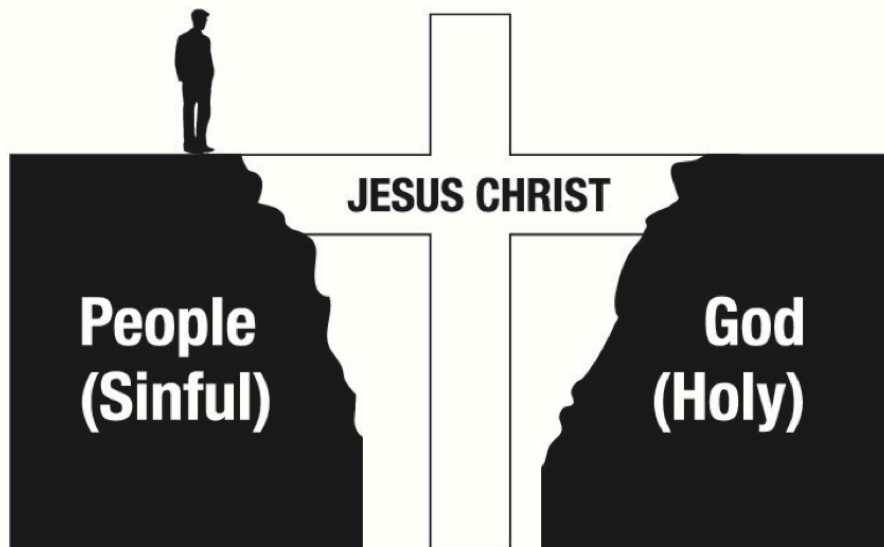
Jesus Christ _____ for our sins,

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

and was _____ on the 3rd day.

Christ died in our place. He paid the full penalty.

2 Corinthians 5:21



The Required Response

He who _____ has eternal life.

John 6:47

The required response to the gospel can be summarized in one word:

"believe."

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved...

Acts 16:31

What does it mean to believe in Christ?

- 1) Intellectual Agreement: I understand and confess I am a sinner and that God is righteous. I understand that Jesus bore the penalty of my sin. He rose from the dead as historical proof He is who He claimed to be. Because of His completed work on the cross on my behalf, He is offering to me the gift of eternal life.
- 2) Personal Application: This applies to me. I need to change my mind by confessing my sin and my need for a Savior who is Jesus Christ alone. The Bible calls this change of mind "repentance."
I must choose to respond, to accept or reject the invitation of Christ.
- 3) A Decision: I consciously decide to entrust my eternal destiny to Christ and what He did for me on the cross. This decision is typically made by a prayer to God expressing faith in Christ and a need for God's salvation. The Bible refers to this decision as "calling on the name of the Lord."

For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call upon Him; for "Whoever will call upon the Name of the Lord will be saved."

Romans 10:11-13

**To believe in Jesus, means to entrust ourselves
to Him alone for our salvation.**

Faith alone, in Christ alone.

The Spiritual Growth Process

Spiritual growth requires an intentional process that takes place over time. The way we grow is through what is often referred to as spiritual disciplines. These disciplines or habits, much like a diet or workout plan, help us be strategic as we grow toward Godliness.

Discipleship Outcomes

At Grace we have what we call our discipleship outcomes. These outcomes are meant to help us gauge how we are doing and then grow in our relationship with Jesus. Here are those 5 outcomes...

Looks us to God daily practicing the spiritual disciplines.

Looks in at oneself to assess a life reflecting The Fruit of The Spirit.

Looks across at others weekly in fellowship & accountability.

Looks out for others by serving with their time, talent, & treasure.

Looks around for the lost by living sent to their neighbors & the nations.

Before the next time you meet, get a copy of the spiritual growth plan in Next Steps and take the assessment with the intent to discuss with your group.

After taking the assessment, make a plan for growing in your walk with God.

Building a House

One of the word pictures Jesus used for our lives is that of a person building a house. At the beginning of His public ministry, Jesus presented in Matthew 5-7 what is called the Sermon on the Mount. Basically Jesus taught the principles of Kingdom Living. He started with the Beatitudes, character qualities that God values for every kingdom citizen.

Jesus concluded the Sermon on the Mount addressing their response to His teaching. He compared their responses to two men building a house. Read through the passage and make observations.

Matthew 7:24-29

vs. 24 What conditions make for a wise man?

vs. 25 What happened to the wise man's house? Why?

vs. 26 What conditions make for a foolish man?

vs. 27 What happened to the foolish man's house? Why?

Both men heard the words taught by Jesus.

What is the only difference between the wise man and the foolish man?

Sound Doctrine

The focus of this series of studies is the Foundations of the Faith, the fundamental doctrines that support our understanding of spiritual truth. These are not doctrines meant only for seminary students to study and theologians to debate. They are truths that provide a solid foundation for every believer. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians was writing to “normal people” not seminary students. He talked about the role of believers with communication gifts.

Ephesians 4:11-16

vs. 12-13 What is the goal of their teaching?

vs. 14 What is one measure of a mature believer?

Paul also wrote letters to two young pastors, Timothy and Titus. What does Paul say about sound doctrine (teaching) in these letters?

2 Timothy 4:1-5

1 Timothy 1:5-11

Titus 1:9

Titus 2:1

As you proceed through this series, let this be your prayer.

May you be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God... Colossians 1:9-10

Section 1: The Person of Jesus Christ

Why should I follow Jesus? Why should I encourage others to follow Jesus?

Christianity is not a system of *dos* and *don'ts* to gain God's approval). Christianity is a restored relationship with God made possible by Jesus Christ. Christianity stands or falls based on the Person and Work of Jesus Christ. Jesus truly is who He claims to be, or He is the biggest fraud in human history. Jesus Christ claims to be fully God (undiminished deity) AND fully human, a man without sin, or a sin nature. In this section, we examine the Person of Christ. In the remaining sections, we will look at the Work of Christ to provide salvation.

The Deity of Jesus Christ

What does the writer of Hebrews, John, and Paul say about Jesus Christ?

Hebrews 1:1-12

vs 1-2 Through whom He _____ the _____

vs 3 The exact _____ of His nature

vs 4-7 Superior to _____

vs 8-9 Your throne _____ is _____

vs 10-12 In the beginning, You laid the _____ of the earth

John 1:1-5, 14

Colossians 1:15-20

What did Jesus claim about Himself?

John 5:17-18; John 10:29-33

The Authentication of His Claims

The Gospel accounts are full of the demonstration of His person through tangible, visible, supernatural acts. What did Jesus do in the following accounts to solidify His deity? (There are parallel accounts in Luke 4:31-6:11)

Matthew 8:1-4

Matthew 8:5-13

Matthew 8:14-17

Matthew 8:23-27

Matthew 8:28-34

Matthew 9:1-8

Matthew 9:18-26

Matthew 9:27-31

Matthew 9:32-36

Matthew 12:22-28

Matthew 2:1-12

John 11

What is the claim of Peter?

2 Peter 1:16-18

To what specific event is Peter referring? Matthew 17:1-8

The Humanity of Jesus Christ

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God." Luke 1:34-35

How is the humanity of Jesus seen in the following?

John 4:6-7

John 11:35

Matthew 4:1-4

What is unique about the humanity of Christ?

Hebrews 4:15

1 John 3:5

Putting it All Together

Jesus is the most unique person of the universe! He is both God and man. The theological term is "hypostatic union." This qualifies Jesus to be:

1 Timothy 2:5 Our _____

1 Peter 1:18 Our _____

Hebrews 4:15-16 Our _____

The only appropriate response to Jesus is submissive worship. Consider the following examples in Scripture.

Matthew 14:22-33 In the boat

Revelation 5:1-14 In heaven

Philippians 2:9-11 In the future

Going Deeper, For Reference

The deity of Christ is central to who Christ is. His deity is declared throughout Scripture by direct statements, His claims, and His actions:

Colossians 1:15 *"And He is the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation."*

Colossians 2:9 *"For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form."*

1. Evidences of His deity while on Earth:

Birth was supernatural. Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:30-31; 2:10-11

He led a sinless life. Hebrews 4:15

Power over nature Luke 4:31-36; Mark 5:11-15; John 11:38-44

2. Jesus carries out the roles of God.

Creates John 1:1-3; 2:7-9; Colossians 1:16

Forgives Sin Mark 2:5-7

Has authority over life John 5:21; 10:17-18

Judges the world Acts 17:31

3. Jesus claimed to be God.

Claimed divine attributes	Matthew 26:63-65; John 5:17-18; 10:30-39
Eternal	John 8:58; 17:5
Omnipresent (everywhere at once)	Matthew 18:20; 28:20
Omnipotent (all powerful)	Matthew 28:18

4. Jesus is given the title of God in the Scripture.

John 1:1-14
Titus 2:13
Hebrews 1:8-10
2 Peter 1:1
Revelation 1:8

5. Old Testament passages quoted with Jesus substituted for Jehovah.

Psalms 68:18	—————	Ephesians 4:8-10
Psalms 102:24-27	—————	Hebrews 1:10-12
Isaiah 45:23	—————	Philippians 2:10
Malachi 3:1	—————	Luke 1:76

The Current Authority of Jesus

Jesus Christ is in a position of ultimate authority. Paul in the beginning of his letter to the Ephesians (vs 18-23) prays that the eyes of their hearts might be enlightened to understand the surpassing power that God has worked on our behalf. Then Paul illustrates how that power has been expressed. What does he say about the authority of Jesus?

Ephesians 1:20-23

vs 20 He _____ Him from the dead, and _____ Him

vs 21 Far above...

vs 22 All things in _____ under His feet

and gave Him as _____ over all things to the church

1 Corinthians 15:25-28

vs 25 For He must _____ until...

Colossians 1:15-20

vs 16 By Him, all things were _____ visible & invisible

all things have been created _____ Him and _____ Him

vs 17 He is _____ all things, and in Him all things _____

together vs 18 so that He Himself will come to have _____

place in everything