



New Hope Christian Chapel Discipleship Institute

“Foundations of Faith”

(previously “Basic Beliefs”)

Revised: 02/04/2009

Course Syllabus

Introduction

Discipleship Covenant (*please use covenant on file in church office*)

Week 1: The Holy Bible

Week 2: God the Father

Week 3: God the Son

Week 4: God the Spirit

Week 5: Sin

Week 6: Salvation

Week 7: New Life

Week 8: The 10 Commandments

Week 9: The Church

Week 10: Faith

Course Completion Form (*please use form on file in church office*)

Introduction

The following course has been compiled for growing believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. Each lesson is designed to introduce a student to a vital aspect of the Christian faith. This course has been specifically arranged in order to provide a systematic overview of the material, and it is suggested that the instructor lead the student through the lessons from beginning to end in the order that the lessons have been arranged so that later lessons might build on the previous discussion of earlier lessons. This course assumes a confession of faith has already been made by the student. The “4 Week Evangelistic Bible Study” and “Christian Living” are highly suggested as pre-requisite courses for this study.

The format has been arranged so as to help a growing believer establish a routine of reading and studying the Holy Bible on a consistent basis. Each week, Scripture verses are to be studied and reflected upon. In addition, there is a required memory verse for each section. The verse should be memorized during the week and be prepared for recitation during the discipleship meeting. The meetings should be interactive and encouraging, creating an atmosphere which will empower the student to ask meaningful questions and truly apply the material to his/her own life. May God bless you as you seek to follow His command...

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20

Week 1: The Holy Bible

Scripture Memory: 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Scriptural Foundations:

The following passages each reveal important truths about the nature and authority of the Word of God. Please read them on your own and briefly comment on important elements, interesting statements, and any questions that you may have. Feel free to use additional paper if you wish.

1. Deuteronomy 4:1-2

2. Deuteronomy 6:6-9

3. Psalm 119:9-16

4. Psalm 119:105

5. Proverbs 30:5-6

6. Matthew 5:17-20

7. Acts 2:42

8. Acts 8:26-39

9. Romans 15:4

10. Galatians 1:11-12

11. 2 Timothy 3:14-17

12. Titus 2:1

13. 2 Peter 1:20-21

14. Revelation 22:18-21

Discussion Questions:

The following questions and scenarios are intended to be discussed jointly during a discipleship meeting. Please review them in advance of the meeting during which they will be discussed in more depth.

Going Deeper

- Beginning with the following passages, discuss the nature and probability of OT prophecies being fulfilled in the NT.
 - (Ps.16:10 & Jn.20:1-9)(Isa.7:14 & Mt.1:18-25)(Isa.42:1-7 & Luke 4:14-22)(Zec.12:10-11 & Jn.19:34)(Is. 53:1-12 & John 19:31-42 & Jesus' crucifixion & burial)
- In what ways do the following passages suggest the Bible can be used by believers?
 - (Eph.6:17; Rom.12:2; 1Pe.3:15)

Conversation Starters

1. How would you define and explain each of the following characteristics of the Bible? (authority, unchanging nature, inspiration, prophecy, role as "meta-narrative", application, relevance)
2. How would you respond to someone who does not believe the Bible is trustworthy or inspired? Is there any way to overcome their skepticism?
3. How should we approach passages that are difficult to understand and/or seemingly in conflict? Can you think of any examples?
4. What is "hermeneutics", and how do we use it?
5. What is the *Wesleyan Quadrilateral*, and how does it relate to Scripture and Faith?

Additional Resources

- Consider purchasing an NIV Hebrew-Greek Key Word Study Bible for deeper study
- Read: [How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth](#), Fee & Stuart
- www.BibleGateway.com – great Bible search tool online
- www.preceptaustin.org – fantastic online commentaries & Bible research tools

Week 2: God the Father

Scripture Memory: Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Scriptural Foundations:

The following passages each reveal important truths about the nature and character of the God Himself. Please read them on your own and comment on important elements, interesting statements, and any questions that you may have.

1. Genesis 1:1

2. Deuteronomy 4:7

3. Deuteronomy 6:4-5

4. Deuteronomy 8:19-20

5. 1 Samuel 16:7

6. Psalm 23

7. Psalm 33:11

8. Psalm 46:10

9. Psalm 139:1-16

10. Matthew 6:25-34

11. Matthew 10:28-31

12. Romans 1:17-20

13. 1 John 4:7-12

14. Revelation 4:1-11

Discussion Questions:

The following questions and scenarios are intended to be discussed jointly during a discipleship meeting. Please review them in advance of the meeting during which they will be discussed in depth.

Going Deeper

- How can God be both a loving God as well as a jealous God full of wrath?
 - (Ex.20:1-6; Nah.1:1-8; Jn.3:16; Rom.1:16-18)
- What is a healthy understanding of the “fear of God”?
 - (Ex.20:18-21; Ps.36:1-4; Ecc.12:13-14; 1Pet.2:17)
- Can you describe God’s “*agape*” love? What does “*agape*” mean?
 - Jn.15:13; 1Cor.13:1-13; Eph.5:2)
- How do God’s purposes intersect with human free will and decision making?
 - (Rom.8:28-30; Eph.1:11-12; Jn.3:16-18; Ac.16:30-31; Jn.7:17)

Conversation Starters

1. How would you define and explain each of the following characteristics of God?
(transcendent, omnipotent, omniscient, loving, righteous, holy, imminent)
2. How would you respond to someone who does not believe there is a God?
3. How should we interact with other religions and their understandings of “God”?
4. How do you reconcile biblical creation with modern scientific information on the formation of the universe in terms of a Creator God?

Additional Resources

- “I am not, but I know I AM: Little Me, Infinite God”, Louie Giglio

Week 3: God the Son

Scripture Memory: John 3:16

Scriptural Foundations:

The following passages each reveal important truths about the nature and power of Jesus Christ. Please read them on your own and comment on important elements, interesting statements, and any questions that you may have.

1. Matthew 4:1-11

2. Luke 2:1-20

3. John 1:1-5

4. John 3:16-17

5. John 14:1-7

6. John 16:28

7. Acts 2:22-24

8. Romans 10:9-13

9. 2 Corinthians 5:21

10. Philippians 2:5-11

11. Colossians 1:15-20

12. Hebrews 1:1-3

13. Hebrews 4:14-16

14. Revelation 22:13

Discussion Questions:

The following questions and scenarios are intended to be discussed jointly during a discipleship meeting. Please review them in advance of the meeting during which they will be discussed in depth.

Going Deeper

- Since Jesus was a historical person born around 5AD, how do you explain the following verses?
 - (Jn.1:1; Heb.13:8)
- What fundamental fact does Jesus' control over nature prove in Luke 8:22-25? What is the parallel between that event and the event in Jonah 1:8-16?

Conversation Starters

1. How would you define and explain each of the following characteristics of Jesus? (fully man & fully God, redeemer, sinless, lamb of God, high priest)
2. How would you respond to someone who does not believe that Jesus was an actual historical person?
3. How would you respond to someone who believes that Jesus was just a "good prophet" and not actually God incarnate?
4. Have you ever heard C.S. Lewis' "Lord, Liar, Lunatic" proposition? What does it show?
5. What is your biggest question about the nature, life or deity of Christ?

Additional Resources

- The Case for Christ, Lee Strobel
- The Jesus I Never Knew, Phillip Yancey
- The writings of Philo and Josephus - ancient historians who wrote about Jesus - these and many other great Christian writers can be found at "Christian Classics Ethereal Library" at www.ccel.org provided by Calvin College

Week 4: God the Spirit

Scripture Memory: Romans 8:6

Scriptural Foundations:

The following passages each reveal important truths about the nature and power of the Holy Spirit of God. Please read them on your own and comment on important elements, interesting statements, and any questions that you may have.

1. Exodus 31:1-5

2. 1 Samuel 10:9-12

3. Psalm 51:10-12

4. Matthew 28:19

5. John 15:26

6. Acts 1:8

7. Acts 2:1-11

8. Romans 8:5-17

9. Romans 8:26-27

10. 1 Corinthians 2:9-16

11. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

12. 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

13. Galatians 4:6-7

14. Ephesians 1:13-14

Discussion Questions:

The following questions and scenarios are intended to be discussed jointly during a discipleship meeting. Please review them in advance of the meeting during which they will be discussed in depth.

Going Deeper

- Do the following passages teach that there is a “second baptism” into the Holy Spirit after a person’s initial conversion? Why or why not?
 - (Ac.2:1-8; Ac.19:1-6)
- What are the three primary ways that scripture shows that we can negatively interact with the Spirit? How is the Spirit affected by each?
 - (Ac.7:51; Eph.4:30; 1Thess.5:19 ‘quench’)

Conversation Starters

1. How would you define and explain how the Holy Spirit relates and interacts with each of the following words? (trinity, indwelling, a “seal”, guidance, spiritual gifts, prayer)
2. How would you respond to someone who thinks there is no difference between the Holy Spirit and the “conscience”?
3. Do you believe that supernatural gifts are a natural result of having the Holy Spirit? What has been your experience? What does the Bible teach?
4. There are different implications for our faith when we don’t take seriously a particular aspect of the Trinity. What could be the result of not taking the Holy Spirit seriously? The Father? The Son?

Additional Resources

- “The Holy Spirit: His Gifts and Power” by John Owen – perhaps the best theological study available on the Holy Spirit, written by the well-known Puritan theologian.

Week 5: Sin

Scripture Memory: Romans 3:23

Scriptural Foundations:

The following passages each reveal important truths about the reality and extent of the nature of Sin. Please read them on your own and comment on important elements, interesting statements, and any questions that you may have.

1. Genesis 1:26-27

2. Genesis 2

3. Genesis 3

4. John 8:34-44

5. Romans 3:9-12

6. Romans 3:23

7. Romans 5:12

8. Romans 5:18-21

9. Romans 6:23

10. Ephesians 2:1-3

Discussion Questions:

The following questions and scenarios are intended to be discussed jointly during a discipleship meeting. Please review them in advance of the meeting during which they will be discussed in depth.

Going Deeper

- How can we view sin as “hereditary”? Are we truly sinful because of our ancestor’s sins? (Ex.20:1-6; Ro.5:12)
- How/why is sin dead apart from the law? (Ro.7:7-8)

Conversation Starters

1. How would you define and explain how sin is related to each of the following words? (*imago dei*, the “fall” of man, punishment/consequences, total depravity)
2. What does the acronym T.U.L.I.P. stand for in the Calvinist viewpoint?
3. What are the three primary views of the imputation of sin? (Federal, Pelagian, Augustinian)
4. Did God intend for Adam and Eve to sin or not? Why?
5. Why does it seem like there actually are “good” people in the world who don’t believe in God? Can this be true if we are born sinful?
6. What are sins of “omission” versus sins of “commission”?

Additional Resources

- “Not The Way It’s Supposed To Be: A Breviary of Sin” by Cornelius Plantinga

Week 6: Salvation

Scripture Memory: Acts 4:12

Scriptural Foundations:

The following passages each reveal important truths about the nature and extent of God's salvation. Please read them on your own and comment on important elements, interesting statements, and any questions that you may have.

1. John 3:1-7

2. John 6:35-40

3. Acts 4:12

4. Acts 16:31

5. Romans 5:6-11

6. Romans 6:1-11

7. Romans 8:35-39

8. Romans 10:9-13

9. 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

10. Ephesians 2:8-10

11. Philippians 2:12-13

12. 1 Peter 1:3-5

Discussion Questions:

The following questions and scenarios are intended to be discussed jointly during a discipleship meeting. Please review them in advance of the meeting during which they will be discussed in depth.

Going Deeper

- What is the relationship between forgiveness and repentance? Does one lead to the other? Can one exist without the other?
 - (Matt.3:1-2; 4:17; Ac.2:38; 3:19; Rev.3:19-22)
- Is our forgiveness by God conditional...does it require our forgiveness of others first? What is the impact if we do not forgive others?
 - (Matt.6:12-15; Matt.21:18-35; Mar.11:25; Lk.6:36-38)
- What is the relationship between Scripture and salvation in this following passage?
 - (2Tim.3:14-17)
- What do you think the following verses are saying about salvation?
 - (Phil.2:12-13)

Conversation Starters

1. How would you define and explain how salvation is related to each of the following words? (justification, regeneration, sanctification, persecution, assurance of salvation)
2. What exactly is the "*ordo salutis*"? (Rom.8:28-30)
3. When exactly do you think you were/are forgiven for your daily sins? What about future sins?
4. What does it actually mean to be "saved"? Saved from what? Saved for what?
5. If God chooses to give some people His salvation, does that mean that He chooses "not" to give salvation to others?
 - a. (Rom.11:5-11; 2Tim.2:10; Eph.1:3-11)
6. Is it possible to lose your salvation?
 - a. (Matt.13:1-23; 1Tim.1:18-20; Heb.6:4-6; Jam.5:19-20)

Additional Resources

- "The Spirit of the Disciplines" by Dallas Willard. Does a good job of explaining the past, present and future natures of salvation. Also a great book about the spiritual disciplines.

Week 7: New Life

Scripture Memory: 2 Corinthians 5:17

Scriptural Foundations:

The following passages each reveal important truths about the nature and qualities of new life in Christ. Please read them on your own and comment on important elements, interesting statements, and any questions that you may have.

1. Psalm 25:4-7

2. Matthew 5:1-12

3. Matthew 22:34-40

4. Luke 21:1-4

5. John 13:1-17

6. Romans 6:23

7. 2 Corinthians 5:11-20

8. 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

9. Galatians 5:16-25

10. Philippians 2:1-11

11. James 1:22-25

12. 1 John 1:8-9

13. 1 John 4:7-21

Discussion Questions:

The following questions and scenarios are intended to be discussed jointly during a discipleship meeting. Please review them in advance of the meeting during which they will be discussed in depth.

Going Deeper

- What does the following verse indicate needs to change in order for us to be transformed?
 - (Rom.12:2)
- How come when we are saved, our lives aren't instantly transformed? Isn't that what being a "new creation" is all about? (2Cor.5:17)

Conversation Starters

1. How would you define and explain how new life is embodied by each of the following words? (repentance, generosity, love, forgiveness, servanthood, humility)
2. How can we explain the fact that some people don't act/think/speak any differently after being saved than how they did before?
3. Is behavioral transformation a tangible "proof" of salvation? Why or why not?

Additional Resources

- "The Cost of Discipleship", by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Week 8: The 10 Commandments

Scripture Memory: Exodus 20:3,4,7,8,12-17

Scriptural Foundations:

The following passages each reveal important truths about the nature and deeper meanings of God's 10 Commandments. Please read them on your own and comment on important elements, interesting statements, and any questions that you may have.

1. Exodus 20:1-17

2. Deuteronomy 4:15-31

3. Deuteronomy 6:4-9

4. Matthew 5:21-22

5. Matthew 5:27-28

6. Matthew 22:34-40

7. Mark 3:28-29

8. Luke 12:15

9. Ephesians 4:25

10. Ephesians 4:28

11. Ephesians 6:1-4

12. James 2:8-13

Discussion Questions:

The following questions and scenarios are intended to be discussed jointly during a discipleship meeting. Please review them in advance of the meeting during which they will be discussed in depth.

Going Deeper

- What does Jesus mean when He said He did not come to abolish the OT Law?
 - (Matt.5:17 – 20)
- What is the difference between the Old Testament's view of the 10 Commandments and the New Testament's view of the 10 Commandments?
- Does Paul undermine the importance/benefit of the OT Laws in the book of Romans? Why or why not?
 - (Rom.3:21-31)
- Does Paul go even further and say that the OT Law created sin?
 - (Rom.5:20; 7:7-12)

Conversation Starters

1. What can we learn about God the Father by studying the 10 Commandments?
2. How relevant are the 10 commandments to us who live in another culture, nearly 4000 years after they were established?
3. Do you think the 10 Commandments are laws that should transcend cultures? Are they universal or are they cultural?
4. Which commandments are the hardest for us to follow consistently? What can this reveal about us? How could this knowledge be used to help us?

Additional Resources

- ?

Week 9: The Church

Scripture Memory: Matthew 18:20

Scriptural Foundations:

The following passages each reveal important truths about the nature and character of the Church. Please read them on your own and comment on important elements, interesting statements, and any questions that you may have.

1. Exodus 31:12-17

2. Matthew 28:18-20

3. Acts 2:41-47

4. Acts 6:1-7

5. Acts 10:1-48

6. 1 Corinthians 5:1-13

7. 1 Corinthians 11:23-29

8. 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

9. Ephesians 4:1-16

10. 1 Timothy 3:1-13

11. Hebrews 10:25

12. James 3:1

Discussion Questions:

The following questions and scenarios are intended to be discussed jointly during a discipleship meeting. Please review them in advance of the meeting during which they will be discussed in depth.

Going Deeper

- Within the church, there are occasionally times where one person sins against another, or creates problems within the church body. Using the following scripture passage, can you describe God's healthy pattern of resolving these issues?
 - (Matthew 18:15-17)
 - Can you think of a time where you have seen this process take place effectively or ineffectively?
- Spiritual gifts are closely related to the operation of the church. In ways are the following spiritual gifts necessary for a properly functioning church body?
 - (Rom.12:4-8)
- If Christ fulfilled the OT legal Law, then do we still need to observe a Sabbath?
 - (Matt.12:1-14)

Conversation Starters

1. How would you define and explain how the Church is related to each of the following words? (the Body of Christ, Sabbath, leadership, baptism, communion, church discipline)
2. How would you respond to someone that says, "I don't need to go to church on Sunday to be a Christian."?
3. What is "church polity", and does the Bible teach one specific type of polity over others?
4. What is the difference between a church ordinance and a church sacrament?
5. What does the word "catholic" mean in it's basic sense? What does that imply about the Roman "Catholic" Church? How would you respond to this?

Additional Resources

- ?

Week 10: Faith

Scripture Memory: Hebrews 11:1

Scriptural Foundations:

The following passages each reveal important truths about the nature and power of Faith. Please read them on your own and comment on important elements, interesting statements, and any questions that you may have.

1. Proverbs 16:9

2. Matthew 21:18-22

3. Luke 17:5-6

4. Romans 1:16-17

5. Romans 10:9-10

6. Ephesians 2:8-10

7. Ephesians 6:16

8. Philippians 1:6

9. 2 Timothy 4:7-8

10. 1 Thessalonians 5:8

11. Hebrews 11:1-40

12. James 1:2-8

13. James 2:14-24

14. 1 Peter 1:7-9

Discussion Questions:

The following questions and scenarios are intended to be discussed jointly during a discipleship meeting. Please review them in advance of the meeting during which they will be discussed in depth.

Going Deeper

- How is faith related to prayer? Is one contingent upon the other? Can one exist without the other? (James 5:15)
- What is the noble request that these people make to God? Can we learn from it?
 - (Mark 9:24; Luke 17:5)
- How did people's faith impact Jesus' miracles?
 - (Matthew 9:28-29; Mark 10:52) vs. (Matthew 13:54-58)
- How are we supposed to understand the following passages? Can we really do "anything"?
 - (Matt.17:14-21; Matt.21:18-22; 1 Cor.13:2)
 - How does knowing the will of God relate to this concept? (Rom. 8:26-27; Rom.12:2)

Conversation Starters

1. How would you define and explain how faith is related to each of the following words? (submission, spiritual armor, perseverance, testing, faith/ deeds)
2. How does faith grow? How can we have greater faith?
3. Can we be a Christian without faith? How is Christian faith similar/ different from other people's faith?
4. What are the parallels between faith and physical muscles?
5. What is the "Word of Faith" movement, and what is a critical error in their way of thinking?
6. Is faith a choice, or a gift, or both? Why?
7. What are some situations in your own life that have helped increase your faith?

Additional Resources

- ?