

Foundations of the Christian Life

Lesson One: Jesus the Rock

Main Idea: The true foundation of the Christian life is Jesus Christ Himself—nothing else, and no one else. He is the rock we can build our lives on.

1. Sing a Song

2. Opening Prayer

3. Everyone say out loud, one at a time, the Scripture to memorize for next week's meeting.

- *For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 3:11 NIV)*
- **The Leader reads and repeats the verses, and the group says them together out loud, two times. Challenge the group to memorize them.**

4. Teaching from the Bible

A. Have someone read Matthew 16:13-18 out loud. Let someone summarize it in their own words. Ask the group to add anything missed. Read the passage a second time, then discuss the questions below.

- According to this passage, who is Jesus?
- Who revealed to Simon Peter who Jesus is?
- When Jesus says to Simon Peter that “on this rock I will build my church”, what do you think he means?
- Is Jesus saying Peter is the rock he will build his church on, or is he saying the confession of Jesus as the Son of God is the rock he will build his church on?
- What are the characteristics of a large, massive rock?

- A large rock makes a good foundation for building a house. What is the difference between building a house on a large, solid rock and building a house on earth that floods easily?
- What, or who is the rock we can build our lives upon?

B. Read Hebrews 13:8 out loud, then discuss the questions below.

- How does this verse emphasize the Jesus is the rock we can build our lives upon?
- Have each person share what Jesus means to them.
- Who have you told about Christ? How did you come to know Jesus Christ and have faith in him? When were you baptized?

C. Have someone read Luke 6:47-48 out loud. Let someone summarize it in their own words. Ask the group to add anything missed. Read the passage a second time, then discuss the questions below.

- What three things does this Scripture teach us that we have to do in order to build our lives on Jesus the rock? (If the group has a hard time identifying the three things, here they are to help them: 1) come to Jesus; 2) listen to him; and 3) obey him.)
- What does it mean to “come to Jesus”?
- How can we learn his teachings?
- Why should we obey Christ’s teachings?
- What does it mean to be a “disciple of Jesus Christ”? Does a disciple imitate the person he is learning from?
- Have each person tell how coming to know Christ has changed their life.
- What are you doing differently today because of Jesus that you did not do before?

5. Homework

- **The Leader shares the homework with the group and encourages them to complete it before the next meeting.**
- Let’s practice building our house on the Rock! Read in a Bible, or have your

someone read to you, some of the verses in Matthew chapters 5, 6 or 7. These are the famous “Sermon on the Mount”, great teaching from Jesus for all of his disciples, including us. Choose one thing that Jesus tells you to do in these verses, and do it between now and the next meeting. Be prepared to share what you did in obedience to the teachings of Jesus.

6. Collect an Offering

7. Share the Lord's Supper

8. Closing Prayer

Foundations of the Christian Life

Lesson Two: Jesus the Lamb of God

Main Idea: The true foundation of the Christian life is Jesus Christ Himself—nothing else, and no one else. He is the Lamb of God who was sacrificed for our sins.

1. Sing a Song

2. Opening Prayer

3. Everyone say out loud, one at a time, the Scripture memorized last week.

- *For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 3:11 NIV)*
- **Leader: Praise those who memorized the verse. Offer to help those who did not. Break into groups of two or three to practice the verse if necessary.**

4. Homework

- **Leader: before discussing this week's lesson, have everyone report on how they did on the homework from last week, which is listed below.**
- Let's practice building our house on the Rock! Read in a Bible, or have your someone read to you, some of the verses in Matthew chapters 5, 6 or 7. This is the famous "Sermon on the Mount," the great teaching from Jesus for all of his disciples, including us. Choose one thing that Jesus tells you to do in these verses, and do it between now and the next meeting. Be prepared to share what you did in obedience to the teachings of Jesus.
- Then ask this question: "Why is the idea of learning and obeying Christ's teaching so important?" Have the members talk.

5. Repeat out loud. Memorize for next week.

- *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God,*

who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29 NIV)

- **The Leader reads and repeats the verses, and the group says them together out loud, two times. Challenge the group to memorize them.**

6. Teaching from the Bible

A. Leader: use the following questions to introduce the lesson.

- What is an occasion a family eats an expensive meat? Perhaps a wedding or funeral? Why is it such a special treat to have fine meat on a special occasion?
- What has to happen to the animal in order for us to enjoy its meat?
- Eating good meat on a special occasion can be expensive for us, and of course the animal must give its life so we can enjoy the benefit. As our memory verse tells us, this is a picture of how God gives something very costly for us to have great benefits. He gives his Son as the Lamb of God so we can have the benefit of the forgiveness of our sins.
- Let's read a story about a great man in the Bible who did the same thing and gives us a picture of Jesus as the Lamb of God.

B. Have someone read Genesis 22:1-13 out loud. Let someone summarize it in their own words. Ask the group to add anything missed. Read the passage a second time, then discuss the questions below.

- What did God tell Abraham to do?
- What did Abraham think that God would supply? (See verse 8.)
- Who carried the wood for the sacrifice up the mountain? (See verse 6.)
- Did God require Abraham to sacrifice his only son?
- What does our memory verse call Jesus?
- And what does the verse say that Jesus will do?

- Did Jesus fulfill the story of Abraham and Isaac? Was he the Lamb of God that was killed by men on the cross for the sins of the world?
- Did he die for your sins?
- What is the result of his sacrifice in your life? Have everyone discuss this.
- Do we now have eternal life because Jesus died for our sins?

B. Read the following summary to the group.

- What a remarkable story of Abraham and Isaac. Abraham was a man willing to give up his son in obedience to God. This is what God the Father did in giving up his Son, Jesus, to save us. Isaac carried the wood up the hill and willingly laid down upon the altar. Jesus carried his cross up the hill and willingly sacrificed himself for us. God prevented Abraham from offering Isaac and instead provide the ram as the offering for sin. God did not spare his Son but gave him up for us all the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. He takes away your sin and my sin. We are completely forgiven of our sins and free from any guilt or shame. We know for certain we will be with God forever because of what Jesus has done for us. Praise him!

7. Homework

- **The Leader shares the homework with the group and encourages them to complete it before the next meeting.**
- We want to learn how to build our spiritual house on Christ. Let's continue what we did last week. Jesus tells us to "Go and make disciples." Let's obey Jesus by finding someone, a good friend or relative we can tell the story of Abraham and Isaac and Jesus, the Lamb of God to before next week. Choose carefully and wisely the person you tell. You could share privately with them and avoid problems, if possible. Pray for God's wisdom and obey Christ. Share next week what happened.

8. Collect an Offering

9. Share the Lord's Supper

10. Closing Prayer

Foundations of the Christian Life

Lesson Three: Eternal Salvation is in Jesus

Main Idea: Eternal Salvation is found in Jesus Christ alone.

1. Sing a Song

2. Opening Prayer

3. Everyone say out loud, one at a time, the Scripture memorized last week.

- *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29 NIV)*
- **Leader: Praise those who memorized the verse. Offer to help those who did not. Break into groups of two or three to practice the verse if necessary.**

4. Homework

- **Leader: before discussing this week's lesson, have everyone report on how they did on the homework from last week, which is listed below.**
- We want to learn how to build our spiritual house on Christ. Let's continue what we did last week. Jesus tells us to "Go and make disciples." Let's obey Jesus by finding someone, a good friend or relative we can tell the story of Abraham and Isaac and Jesus, the Lamb of God to before next week. Choose carefully and wisely the person you tell. You could share privately with them and avoid problems, if possible. Pray for God's wisdom and obey Christ. Share next week what happened.
- **Have each person report to the group exactly what they did and what happened. Take time for prayer for each person who was witnessed to about Jesus. Pray as the whole group or in pairs.**

5. Repeat out loud. Memorize for next week.

- *"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12 NIV)*

- **The Leader reads and repeats the verse, and the group says it together out loud, two times. Challenge the group to memorize it.**

6. Teaching from the Bible

A. Leader: use the following questions to introduce the lesson.

- Can you name some of the prophets of God?
- What do people in the village think a prophet is?
- Was Jesus a prophet? Why?
- Is Jesus more than a prophet? If you believe Jesus is more than a prophet, how did you come to believe that?
- Let's read a passage from the Bible that tells more about who Jesus is.

B. Have someone read Matthew 16:13-17 out loud. Let someone summarize it in their own words. Ask the group to add anything missed. Read the passage a second time, then discuss the questions below.

- Who did the people say Jesus was? (See verse 14.)
- Which disciple answered Jesus when he asked the disciples who they thought he was?
- Who did Peter say that Jesus was?
- Peter gives Jesus two titles, "Christ," and "Son of the Living God". Are these different from a prophet?
- How did Jesus say that Peter understood who Jesus really was? (See verse 17.)
- Do we come to know who Jesus is in the same way Peter did?
- How did God reveal to you who Jesus really is?

C. Read the following two passages, then discuss the questions below.

- *"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day." (John 6:44 NIV)*

- How do we come to know Jesus?
- *“For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.” (John 6:40 NIV)*
- What happens when we believe in Jesus?
- Read our memory verse, Acts 4:12, again. Who is the only person who can give us salvation and eternal life?

D. Read the following summary to the group.

- A prophet speaks God's word and reveals God's will. Jesus was indeed a prophet of God. But is much more than a prophet. He is also the Christ, the one chosen by God to bring salvation to us. He is the Son of the Living God. He is the Lamb of God who takes away our sins. He is the rock on which our lives are built. Only in Jesus can we know we have eternal life when we believe in him. Only God the Father can reveal to us who Jesus really is. He reveals who Jesus is when we hear the good news of Jesus and when the Spirit makes the message come alive in our hearts. We hear and believe. God reveals Jesus to us, and we have life that will never end.

7. Homework

- **The Leader shares the homework with the group and encourages them to complete it before the next meeting.**
- As you memorize the Bible verses, find someone to teach them to. Are you working on sharing your faith with three people and baptizing them into Christ? How many have you baptized so far? Have they begun to share the Gospel of Jesus with three others and baptize them? For next week, continue to work on your three and report back what the Lord is doing in their hearts and lives. Teach them the Bible verses you are memorizing.

8. Collect an Offering

9. Share the Lord's Supper

10. Closing Prayer

Foundations of the Christian Life

Lesson Four: Baptism into Christ

Main Idea: Baptism comes after repentance and having faith in Christ.

1. Sing a Song

2. Opening Prayer

3. Everyone say out loud, one at a time, the Scripture memorized last week.

- *“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12 NIV)*
- **Leader: Praise those who memorized the verse. Offer to help those who did not. Break into groups of two or three to practice the verse if necessary.**

4. Homework

- **Leader: before discussing this week's lesson, have everyone report on how they did on the homework from last week, which is listed below.**
- As you memorize the Bible verses, find someone to teach them to. Are you working on sharing your faith with three people and baptizing them into Christ? How many have you baptized so far? Have they begun to share the Gospel of Jesus with three others and baptize them? For next week, continue to work on your three and report back what the Lord is doing in their hearts and lives. Teach them the Bible verses you are memorizing.
- **Have each person report to the group exactly what they did and what happened. Take time for prayer for each person who was witnessed to about Jesus. Pray as the whole group or in pairs.**

5. Repeat out loud. Memorize for next week.

- *“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38 NIV)*

- **The Leader reads and repeats the verse, and the group says it together out loud, two times. Challenge the group to memorize it.**

6. Teaching from the Bible

A. Leader: use the following questions to introduce the lesson.

- Imagine a woman who walks into the village to buy a few things at the market. She purchases the items she needs, and starts to walk home. Then she realizes she forgot one thing she needs, and has to turn around, go back the market, and get it.
- Have you ever had an experience like this? Tell the group about it.
- This little story is a picture of what the Bible calls repentance. Repentance is when we realize we're going the wrong way and turn around to head the right way. We "change our mind" and decide to do something differently. The woman realized she forgot an item at the market. She turned around to put it right. Repentance is not an emotion but rather a decision. Repentance is an inner change of mind resulting in an outward turning back, or turning around. It means that I was going in one direction, and now I turn around and go in a completely new direction with my life.
- Our memory verse commands us to repent. What do we repent of?
- When we repent, we change our minds about our sins and about who Jesus is. We must repent before we are baptized. Baptism is the outward expression of our inner decision to repent.
- Let's read a Bible story about repentance.

B. Have someone read Luke 15:11-32 out loud. Break into groups of 2 or 3 and retell the story in each group. Have one person tell the story and the others add

anything that was left out. Read the passage a second time, then let the group's retell it to each other again. Now discuss the questions below.

- Why did the younger son leave home?
- What happened to him?
- Why did he decide to go back to his father?
- Where was the father when he returned home?
- What was the father's response?
- How is the younger son a picture of repentance?
- When did you repent of your sins?
- Were you baptized? If not, when will you be baptized?
- What does this story tell you about God's love for you?

C. Read the following summary to the group.

- The younger son in this story gives us a picture of repentance. He insults his father by asking for his inheritance while his father is still alive. He leaves the family, and wastes his inheritance in bad living. Then he comes to his senses. He repents. He changes his mind. He realizes he has harmed his father and ruined his life. He would be better treated as a servant in his father's house. So he goes home to confess his sin. He changes direction in his life. He repents.
- His father loves his son deeply, and as soon as he sees his younger son, he runs to welcome him home. He treats him as a son not a servant. He cares for him and celebrates his son's return. This is a picture of God's love for us when we repent.
- The older son is angry about his father's response to his younger brother. The father offers the older son another way to see what has happened, but we don't know if the older son repents or not. Does he change his mind and join the party? Or does he stay outside alone? As human beings, all of us have wandered away from our heavenly Father. We are sinners and need God's forgiveness given to us through faith in Christ. We all need to repent and join God's celebration for us.

7. Homework

- **The Leader shares the homework with the group and encourages them to complete it before the next meeting.**
- As you tell your friends or family members about eternal salvation through Jesus

Christ, explain to them that they must repent of their sins and be baptized. Share with them the Bible verse you are memorizing this week. Be sure to notice their response and prepare to answer these questions next week. Do they understand that repentance is a decision to stop sinning and believe and obey Jesus Christ? Do they know that baptism is the outward act that we do in obedience after an inward change?

8. Collect an Offering

9. Share the Lord's Supper

10. Closing Prayer

Foundations of the Christian Life

Lesson Five: What Happens When I am Baptized?

Main Idea: When a person is baptized, he is born again. His old nature is buried with Christ and a new person is born.

1. Sing a Song

2. Opening Prayer

3. Everyone say out loud, one at a time, the Scripture memorized last week.

- *“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38 NIV)*
- **Leader: Praise those who memorized the verse. Offer to help those who did not. Break into groups of two or three to practice the verse if necessary.**

4. Homework

- **Leader: before discussing this week's lesson, have everyone report on how they did on the homework from last week, which is listed below.**
- As you tell your friends or family members about eternal salvation through Jesus Christ, explain to them that they must repent of their sins and be baptized. Share with them the Bible verse you are memorizing this week. Be sure to notice their response and prepare to answer these questions next week.
- **Have each person answer the following questions for each person they are sharing the gospel with. Have share the persons' shame and response.**
- Did they understand that repentance is a decision to stop sinning and believe and obey Jesus Christ?
- Did they know that baptism is the outward act that we do in obedience after an inward change?

5. Repeat out loud. Memorize for next week.

- *Jesus said, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." ... "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit." (John 3:3, 5 NIV)*
- **The Leader reads and repeats the verse, and the group says it together out loud, two times. Challenge the group to memorize it. Do whatever it take to help them.**

6. Teaching from the Bible

A. Leader: use the following questions to introduce the lesson.

- Why do farmers want to plant their crops near the river?
- What happens to the soil when the river overflows it's banks?
- Farmers plant crops in the land besides river because every year after the floods, the rivers bring silt mud beside the banks of the river. When the river floods, the silt mud makes the land more fertile than before and more crops will grow. When the flood water flows across the land, it removes the old infertile land, and fertilizes the land for crops. The land is born again and is ready to produce a new, fruitful crop.
- In a similar way when a person is baptized, they are born again. Their old nature is buried with Christ and a new person is born, ready to produce a crop in the kingdom of God?
- How is baptism like river floods renewing the soil?
- Let's read a passage about being born again.

B. Have someone read John 3:1-16 out loud. The Leader summarizes the passage in their own words, and let the group add anything left out. Read the passage a second time, then let one of the group members retell it in their own

words. Let the group add anything left out. Read the passage a third time, then discuss the questions below.

- Why did Nicodemus come to Jesus at night?
- Nicodemus was a leader of the Jews, and he came to Jesus at night. Why did he come at night? Because he did not want others to see that he was interested in Jesus. Sometimes people in our lives come to us at night to discuss about Jesus because they don't want others to know that they are interested in Christianity.
- Have you ever taught someone about Jesus at night? Tell us about it.
- How did Nicodemus know Jesus was from God?
- Have you or others you know seen miracles before? How did people respond to those miracles?
- What did Jesus tell Nicodemus we must do?
- What does it mean to be born again, to be born of water and the Spirit?
- Does Nicodemus understand what Jesus is teaching?
- Many teachers do not understand spiritual truths. Jesus said you must be born again by water and the Spirit of God.
- How can we be born again?
- When we are baptized what happens to us?
- After baptism, are we a new person? How?

C. Read the following summary to the group. If there is time, also read the passage mentioned, Romans 6:3-8. If the meeting is short on time, just read the summary.

- The Bible teaches us in Romans 6:3-8 that when we are baptized we are baptized into the death of Jesus (verse 3). In verse 6, it says that "our old self was crucified with him" so that we are no longer slaves to sin. So when we believe in Christ and are baptized, we identify with Jesus' death and resurrection. Our old nature dies and is buried in the waters of baptism. When we come out of the water, we are a new person, born again by the Holy Spirit. This is what happens at baptism. We leave our old self in the water and are new people, born again by the Spirit of God.

7. Homework

- **The Leader shares the homework with the group and encourages them to complete it before the next meeting.**
- Teach someone who is not in your group about what it means to be born again. Explain to them how what happens at baptism. Tell them that our old nature dies with Christ on the cross and the old nature is buried in the water of baptism. Then explain to them that when we come out of the water, which is like a grave, we are resurrected with Christ, born again by the Holy Spirit. Tell them that we become new people, spiritual beings who are part of the eternal Kingdom of God.
- What questions do they ask you about being born again? As part of your homework, be prepared to share these questions next week. Are there any hard questions that you cannot answer? Especially share any hard questions with your leader, who can ask your 333 Network leader for help.

8. Collect an Offering

9. Share the Lord's Supper

10. Closing Prayer

Foundations of the Christian Life

Lesson Six: The Great Exchange at the Cross

Main Idea: On the cross, Jesus took our punishment. We exchanged our sins for his righteousness.

1. Sing a Song

2. Opening Prayer

3. Everyone say out loud, one at a time, the Scripture memorized last week.

- *Jesus said, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." ... "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit." (John 3:3, 5 NIV)*
- **Leader: Praise those who memorized the verse. Offer to help those who did not. Break into groups of two or three to practice the verse if necessary.**

4. Homework

- **Leader: before discussing this week's lesson, have everyone report on how they did on the homework from last week, using the list below to help them tell their stories.**
- Teach someone who is not in your group about what it means to be born again. Explain to them how what happens at baptism.
- Tell them that our old nature dies with Christ on the cross and the old nature is buried in the water of baptism. Then explain to them that when we come out of the water, which is like a grave, we are resurrected with Christ, born again by the Holy Spirit.
- Tell them that we become new people, spiritual beings who are part of the eternal Kingdom of God.
- What questions do they ask you about being born again? Are there any hard questions that you cannot answer?

5. Repeat out loud. Memorize for next week.

- *“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV)*
- **The Leader reads and repeats the verse, and the group says it together out loud, two times. Challenge the group to memorize it. Do whatever it take to help them.**

6. Teaching from the Bible

A. Leader: use the following questions to introduce the lesson.

- In some villages, the cattle wander freely in the field. What happens if the cattle wander into a field of crops?
- What will the owner of the field do with the cow?
- What does the owner of the cow have to do to get his cow back?
- This story gives us a picture of what Jesus did for us on the cross. We have wandered into sin and caused harm in our lives and the lives of others. We are captive to our sin, but on the cross Jesus paid the compensation for our sin and took our punishment so that we could be returned to our true Father in heaven and become children of God. We exchanged our sin for his righteousness.

B. Have someone read Isaiah 53:4-6 out loud. The Leader summarizes the passage in their own words, and let the group add anything left out. Read the passage a second time, then let one of the group members retell it in their own words. Let the group add anything left out. Read the passage a third time, then discuss the questions below.

- What was man destined for before Jesus Christ died on the cross?
- What was God’s plan to rescue mankind?
- List what Isaiah 53 tells us God put on Jesus when he was on the cross.

- What does this mean to you?
- What did Jesus give us in exchange for our sin?
- Name two things that were exchanged at the cross between Jesus and mankind who believe in him.
- What has happened to all of your sin?

C. Read the following summary to the group.

- Something happened on that day in history at the cross that changed the destiny of mankind forever! Man was destined for death, judgement, sickness, disease and every form of evil that exists. Man was locked up in a prison he had no power to get out of. Man was under the dominion of Satan; defenseless against death and hell. But then something happened at the cross! The cross was God's eternal plan to rescue mankind.
- On the cross, God laid upon Jesus our sorrows, sicknesses and sins! God laid upon Jesus the penalty of death and hell. Because of the sin of Adam all men are bound for destruction. But on the cross, God overturned that judgment against all men. Now those who put their faith in Jesus Christ have their sins forgiven. Jesus paid the penalty for us. Jesus did not go to the cross for himself, but he died on the cross for us. He took my place on the cross. He took my punishment. In the place of punishment, I now have peace with God, and I have Jesus's righteousness. When God looks at me, he sees me covered with Jesus's righteousness.

7. Homework

- **The Leader shares the homework with the group and encourages them to complete it before the next meeting.**
- Share this lesson with someone who is not meeting in a group but is interested in knowing about Jesus. Be prepared next week to tell how it went.

8. Collect an Offering

9. Share the Lord's Supper

10. Closing Prayer

Foundations of the Christian Life

Lesson Seven: The Importance of Learning and Obeying God's Word

Main Idea: The Bible's teachings are God's instructions for us in how to live.

1. Sing a Song

2. Opening Prayer

3. Everyone say out loud, one at a time, the Scripture memorized last week.

- *"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV)*
- **Leader: Praise those who memorized the verse. Offer to help those who did not. Break into groups of two or three to practice the verse if necessary.**

4. Homework

- **Leader: before discussing this week's lesson, have everyone report on how they did on the homework from last week, using the list below to help them tell their stories.**
- Share this lesson with someone who is not meeting in a group but is interested in knowing about Jesus. Be prepared next week to tell how it went.

5. Repeat out loud. Memorize for next week.

- *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away." (Matthew 24:35 NIV)*
- **The Leader reads and repeats the verse, and the group says it together out loud, two times. Challenge the group to memorize it. Help them do so.**

6. Teaching from the Bible

A. Leader: use the following questions to introduce the lesson.

- What would happen if there was no umpire in a cricket match?
- Who would rule on difficult plays?
- Would players get in arguments?
- How could the game go on and victor be reached?
- The Bible, God's written Word, is like the umpire in a cricket match. The Bible is God's umpire for our lives. It tell us the rules to live by. It bring order to our lives. It shows us how to live and obey God.

B. Have someone read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 out loud. The Leader summarizes the passage in their own words, and let the group add anything left out. Read the passage a second time, then discuss the questions below.

- Who is the source of the Bible?
- What is the Bible useful for?
- How has memorizing Bible verses helped you in your faith?
- Who is the Bible written for?
- If the Bible is written for all of us, then how important is it to us?
- What does the Bible equip us for?

C. Leader: read the following summary to the group.

- The verses in 2 Timothy state the Bible is “inspired.” This means the Bible is “God breathed.” God gave the truths that are recorded in the Bible. These are not merely words from men. They are words from the heart of God to us, his people. God does not leave us in the dark to try and figure out what it means to follow him and obey. He gives us his words. These words train us in God’s ways of thinking and living. If you go to school, there are authoritative books that teach us how to do math or science. The Bible is that for the church.
- The Bible is more than just a “Holy Book”. It teaches us how to live. The

words of God in the Bible are *“profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.”* These are not just good ideas for a religious leader to read. The Bible is the book of God for all people. God’s instructions are for all of us. This is why we read the Bible so much and why we memorize scriptures each week. These words “equip” or train us for “every good work.”

D. Have someone read Matthew 22:35-40 out loud. In pairs, let the group summarizes the passage in their own words to each other. Read the passage a second time, then discuss the questions below.

- Jesus knew the Bible very well. When he lived, he only had the Old Testament because the New Testament was not written yet. The teachings he gave that are recorded in the four Gospels demonstrate that Jesus read, memorized and applied God’s word. Jesus refers to the Old Testament as the Law and Prophets.
- What are the words Jesus quotes from the Old Testament?
- If Jesus quoted these words, does that mean he memorized them?
- Should we follow Jesus example and memorize Scripture verses?
- How did Jesus love God and love others?
- Should we follow Jesus example and obey God's Word by loving God and others?

7. Homework

- **The Leader shares the homework with the group and encourages them to complete it before the next meeting.**
- Review the memory verses from the last six weeks. Spend some time to think about each one. Which one is the most meaningful to you? Share that verse with someone who is not part of your group. Explain how this verse is a message from God to us and how God speaks to those who believe, teaching us how to live. Be prepared next week to share how it went.

8. Collect an Offering

9. Share the Lord's Supper

10. Closing Prayer

Foundations of the Christian Life

Lesson Eight: The Word of God, Our Source of Life

Main Idea: The teachings of the Bible are the source of Wisdom, Guidance and Strength for our lives.

1. Sing a Song

2. Opening Prayer

3. Everyone say out loud, one at a time, the Scripture memorized last week.

- *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away." (Matthew 24:35 NIV)*
- **Leader: Praise those who memorized the verse. Offer to help those who did not. Break into groups of two or three to practice the verse if necessary.**

4. Homework

- **Leader: before discussing this week's lesson, have everyone report on how they did on the homework from last week, using the list below to help them tell their stories.**
- Review the memory verses from the last six weeks. Spend some time to think about each one. Which one is the most meaningful to you? Share that verse with someone who is not part of your group. Explain how this verse is a message from God to us and how God speaks to those who believe, teaching us how to live. Be prepared next week to share how it went.

5. Repeat out loud. Memorize for next week.

- *Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" (Matthew 4:4 NIV)*
- **The Leader reads and repeats the verse, and the group says it together out loud, two times. Challenge the group to memorize it. Help them do so.**

6. Teaching from the Bible

A. Leader: use the following questions to introduce the lesson.

- Scientists have invented many things that have changed our lifestyle. Two of their powerful inventions are electricity and the cell phone.
- How long does the cell phone battery last without charging?
- What does electricity give to the mobile?
- Just like electricity gives power to the cell phone, so the Bible gives us power to communicate with God and to live for him. The teachings of the Bible are the source of wisdom, guidance and strength for our lives.

B. Have someone read Matthew 4:1-11 out loud. The Leader summarizes the passage in their own words, and let the group add anything left out. Read the passage a second time, then discuss the questions below.

- For the first three questions, break the Jamat into pairs and ask people to share with each other. And then come back to the group and share what was discussed with the enter groups.
 - How did Jesus respond to the temptations of Satan in this passage?
 - Why is the Bible more important to us than what we eat?
 - How does the Bible feed us like food does?
- Ask the following questions with the entire group.
 - What are some of the benefits of having the Bible in our minds?
 - What is one Scripture that has helped you in the last week?
 - What are some ways that the Bible instructs and guides us in God's will for our lives?

C. Leader: read the following summary to the group.

- In this passage, every time the devil tempted Jesus, Jesus responded by quoting scriptures from the Old Testament. The Bible equipped him to overcome the evil one, to resist temptation, and to follow the Father's will

for his life. One of the verses he quoted was *“Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”* This is a quote from Deuteronomy 8:3. In the Biblical world, bread was a part of their sustenance. In other cultures, bread is like rice. We could say, “Man does not live by rice alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.” God’s word to us is more important than what we eat.

- The Bible is the source of:
- **Truth:** “Sanctify them by Your truth; Your word is truth” (John 17:17). We only know what is true through God’s word to us.
- **God's blessing:** “But He said, 'More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it'” (Luke 11:28). When we know the word of God, we are able to experience the blessings of joy, peace, and love.
- **Victory:** “...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (Eph. 6:17). As the story of Jesus illustrated above, the Bible gives us the ability to overcome sin and experience victory in our lives.
- **Guidance:** “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Ps. 119:105). The Bible shows us the will of God for our lives. It shows us how we are to obey.

7. Homework

- **The Leader shares the homework with the group and encourages them to complete it before the next meeting.**
- While eating with someone this week who is not a part of your group, share the memory verse this week. Tell them that these are the words of Jesus and about how Jesus taught us about the importance of the Bible. Share how the words of God are more important for our life than the food we eat. Make sure you are prepared to share this story with your group next week.

8. Collect an Offering

9. Share the Lord's Supper

10. Closing Prayer

Foundations of the Christian Life

Lesson 13: House Church Meetings

Main Idea: The practices of a house church meeting are given to us in the example of the very first Christian communities.

1. Sing a Song

2. Opening Prayer

3. Everyone say out loud, one at a time, the Scripture memorized last week.

- *Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7 NIV)*
- **Leader: praise those who memorized the verse. Offer to help those who did not. Break into groups of two or three to practice the verse if necessary.**

4. Homework

- **Leader: before discussing this week's lesson, have everyone report on how they did on the homework from last week.**
- **Homework from Last Week:** Take some of your money, crops or animals and give them to someone in need. Test God. Try to give 10% of what you earn this week. Give to those whom God has placed over you in the Lord and who are traveling to serve you. Report back to the group next week your experiences.

5. Repeat out loud. Memorize for next week.

- *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. (Acts 2:42 NIV)*
- **The Leader reads and repeats the verse, and the group says it together out loud, two times. Challenge the group to memorize them. Help them to do so.**

6. Teaching from the Bible

A. Leader: share the following illustration to introduce the lesson.

- We light fires to many reasons. We may light a fire to cook food. Or we may light a fire for the community to gather around at night. We may light a fire for protection or warmth. The fire burns brightly and hot. The closer to the center of the fire, the hotter the temperature.

- The heat of the fire is a picture for being devoted to God. When we believe in Jesus, God lights a fire in our hearts, and we can keep the fire burning brightly and warm if we remain devoted to Jesus. Let's learn about the fire of devotion for God.

B. Have someone read Acts 2:42-47 out loud. The leader summarizes the passage in their own words, and let the group add anything left out. Then read the passage a second time, and have someone else in the group summarize the verse in their own words. Let the group add anything missed. Finally read the verse a third time, and discuss the questions below.

- Before you became a Christian, what were you devoted to in your life?
- Now that you are a Christian, what new things are you devoted to?
- Acts 2:42 says the first Christians devoted themselves to four things. What are they?
- What do you think each of these mean? Break into smaller groups of two or three and discuss them. do you think each of them means?
- Let's learn a little more about each of these four devotions.

C. The Apostles' Teaching

- The apostles were the first followers of Jesus. Jesus taught them and sent them to spread his message. They had Jesus' authority to continue his work. In Acts 2:43 the apostles performed many wonders and signs showing they were Jesus' followers, and they were empowered by his Spirit. The apostles' teaching refers to the good news about Jesus and how to obey him in our lives. Eventually the apostles and their close co-workers wrote all the books of the New Testament so future generations would have their teaching as well.
- In our group, how are we devoted to the apostles' teaching? What do we do to learn from the apostles?

D. Fellowship

- Next the first Christians were devoted to fellowship. Fellowship means they partnered, working together, for the each other's good. They did whatever it took to care for everyone in their community.
- Acts 2:44-45 tells us about their fellowship. *"All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need." (NIV)*
- How did the first Christians fellowship in Acts 2:44-45? How can our group fellowship to care for those in need?

E. Breaking of Bread

- Next the first Christians were devoted to breaking bread. Acts 2:46 says, *"Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts" (NIV)*. Breaking bread means they ate meals together, and their meals included the Lord's Supper. When they met, they enjoyed celebrating Jesus' love for them.
- How does our group "break bread" together?

F. Prayer

- Finally, the first Christians were devoted to prayer. Their prayers included praise and thanksgiving, singing, interceding for others, petitioning God for their own needs, confessing their sins and other prayers. Acts 2:47 says, *"praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." (NIV)*
- How does our group pray? What kinds of prayers do we offer in our meetings?
- Do we have special meetings to pray together for the lost? When can we do this?

G. Summary

- Let's read part of Acts 2:47 again. *"And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." (NIV)*
- What did the Lord do as the first Christians were devoted to the apostles teaching, fellowship, breaking bread and prayer? Is the Lord adding to our number those who are being saved?
- As the first Christians grew the fire of their love for God through the Word of God (the apostles' teaching)

7. Homework

- **The Leader shares the homework with the group and encourages them to complete it before the next meeting.**
- **Homework:** This week meet with Christians you've led to the Lord. Model for them a house church meeting and teach them from Acts 2:42-47. Explain the four devotions of a Christian, and help them to begin practicing them. Be prepared to tell your house church next week how it went.

8. Collect an Offering

9. The Lord's Supper

10. Closing Prayer

Foundations of the Christian Life

Lesson 14: The Lord's Supper

Main Idea: We observe the Lord's Supper to remember Jesus' death and resurrection until he comes again and to experience his presence with us.

1. Sing a Song

2. Opening Prayer

3. Everyone say out loud, one at a time, the Scripture memorized last week.

- *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. (Acts 2:42 NIV)*
- **Leader: praise those who memorized the verse. Offer to help those who did not. Break into groups of two or three to practice the verse if necessary.**

4. Homework

- **Leader: before discussing this week's lesson, have everyone report on how they did on the homework from last week.**
- This week meet with Christians you've led to the Lord. Model for them a house church meeting and teach them from Acts 2:42-47. Explain the four devotions of a Christian, and help them to begin practicing them. Be prepared to tell your house church next week how it went.

5. Repeat out loud. Memorize for next week.

- *For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26 NIV)*
- **Leader: read and repeat these verses, and the group says them together out loud, two times. Challenge the group to memorize them. Because**

these verse are longer than usual memory verses, the group will need extra help. Meet briefly two or three times during the week to practice the verses.

6. Teaching from the Bible

A. Leader: ask the following questions to introduce the lesson.

- What is the most important national holiday in our country?
- What do we remember and celebrate on that day?
- What things do we do to remember and celebrate on that day?
- How do we feel on that day?
- As followers of Jesus, we remember the most important thing Jesus did for us. We remember and celebrate his death on the cross for us. Let's learn more about this.

B. Have someone read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 out loud. The leader summarizes the passage in their own words, and let the group add anything left out. Then read the passage a second time, and have someone else in the group summarize the verse in their own words. Let the group add anything missed. Finally read the verse a third time, and discuss the questions below.

- In this passage, Paul a leader among the first Christians is writing. Paul says he passed on to these believers what he received from Jesus. What is something you've learned from Jesus that you've passed on to someone else?
- What does the bread represent to us?
- What does the cup represent to us?
- What do we proclaim when we eat the bread and drink from the cup?
- What do we feel and experience when we have the Lord's Supper?

C. Have someone read 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 out loud. The leader summarizes the passage in their own words, and let the group add anything left out. Then read the passage a second time, and discuss the questions below.

- When we eat the bread we participate in the body of Christ. What does this mean? (See 1 Corinthians 12:12-14 for help answering this question.)
- When we drink from the cup we participate in the blood of Christ? What does this mean? (See Matthew 26:27-28 for help answering this question.)

D. Have someone read Luke 24:13-35 out loud. The leader summarizes the passage in their own words, and let the group add anything left out. Then read

the passage a second time, and if time permits, break the group into smaller groups for three or four to retell the story. Then discuss the questions below.

- Why did the two disciples not recognize Jesus? (See verses 14 and 15.)
- What did Jesus share with them on the road? Why did their hearts burn within them? (See verses 27 and 32.)
- When did they recognize it was Jesus? (See verses 30 and 31.)
- What did they do after Jesus disappeared from their sight? (See verses 33 through 35.)
- The disciples recognized Jesus when he broke the bread. They were aware of his presence with them. Have you experienced Jesus presence with you when you receive the Lord's Supper? Share that experience with the group.

E. Leader: read the following summary to the group.

- When we share the Lord's Supper, we proclaim Jesus death and what it means for us until he comes again. We remember him, and he is present with us. When we eat the bread, we experience being a part of his body, the church. This is our spiritual family, where God loves us and where we love one another. When we drink from the cup, we experience the forgiveness of our sins. Jesus died to cleanse us of all our sins. Nothing is more important to us than Jesus, and in the Lord's Supper we remember and celebrate his love for us!

7. Homework

- **The Leader shares the homework with the group and encourages them to complete it before the next meeting.**
- **Homework:** This week observe the Lord's Supper with other believers at least one time in your homes, other than during the group meeting. Tell the story in Luke 24:13-35 and share your memory verses from 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. Share with each other how you experience Jesus during the Lord's Supper. Be prepared to report to the house church next week.

8. Collect an Offering

9. The Lord's Supper

10. Closing Prayer

Foundations of the Christian Life

Lesson 15: Sing to the Lord

Main Idea: We sing to the Lord to rejoice in him and to let his word dwell in our hearts.

1. Sing a Song

2. Opening Prayer

3. Everyone say out loud, one at a time, the Scripture memorized last week.

- *For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26 NIV)*
- **Leader: praise those who memorized the verses. Offer to help those who did not. Break into groups of two or three to practice the verses since they are so long.**

4. Homework

- **Leader: before discussing this week's lesson, have everyone report on how they did on the homework from last week.**
- **Homework:** This week observe the Lord's Supper with other believers at least one time in your homes, other than during the regular meeting. Tell the story in Luke 24:13-35 and share your memory verses from 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. Share with each other how you experience Jesus during the Lord's Supper. Be prepared to report to the house church next week.

5. Repeat out loud. Memorize for next week.

- *Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. (Colossians 3:16 NIV)*

- **The Leader reads and repeats these verses, and the group says them together out loud, two times. Challenge the group to memorize them.**

6. Teaching from the Bible

A. Leader: ask the following questions to introduce the lesson.

- What is your favorite national song or local village song?
- Have group members lead the group in singing a couple of these songs.
- As followers of Jesus, we also sing songs to him.

B. Have someone read Psalm 96:1-6 out loud. The leader summarizes the passage in their own words, and let the group add anything left out. Then read the passage a second time, and have someone else in the group summarize the verses in their own words. Let the group add anything missed. Now discuss the questions below.

- What kind of song are we to sing to the Lord? (See verse 1.)
- Have you or your group ever made a new song to sing to the Lord?
- What do we sing about when we sing to the Lord? (See verses 2 and 3. Hint: God's name is his character, who he is.)
- Why do we sing to the Lord? (See verses 4 through 6.)
- The fear of the Lord means to show him the respect and honor he is due. Why is the Lord to be feared above all gods, which are idols?

C. Have someone read Colossians 3:16 out loud. Have someone else in the group summarize the verse in their own words. Let the group add anything missed. Read the verse again, and then discuss the questions below.

- What is the message of Christ?
- How does the verse say to let the message of Christ dwell among your group?
- Psalms are songs from the book of Psalms in the Bible. God's people have prayed and sung the psalms for thousands of years. They are still a wonderful way to sing to the Lord.
- Do you ever sing psalms? If so, when do you sing them? Do you want to sing one now? Do you feel gratitude in your heart as you sing?
- Hymns are songs that are written down and shared among believers. For example Philippians 2:6-11 is a song Paul wrote and shared with his churches.
- Do you ever sing hymns? If so, when do you sing them? How do hymns help you learn the message of Christ? Do you feel grateful to God when you sing? Do you want to sing one now?

- Songs from the Spirit are songs the Holy Spirit inspires us to sing in the moment.
- Does the Holy Spirit ever give you a song to sing? If so, would you share it with the group now?

E. Leader: read the following summary to the group.

- Singing to God is a wonderful way to experience his love for us and share our love for him. We can sing in our meetings. We can sing as a family at home. We can sing when we are alone. When we sing, we praise God for who he is and what he's done for us. We thank him for our salvation, and we grow in respect for him. We learn the message of Jesus more fully. Sometimes the Holy Spirit inspires us to sing a song made up in the moment. At other times we sing a song another believer has written or a song from the Bible. In singing our hearts touch God's heart, and his heart reaches ours.

7. Homework

- **The Leader shares the homework with the group and encourages them to complete it before the next meeting.**
- **Homework:** This week pick a psalm or another passage from the Bible and turn it into a song. Meet with other Christians at another time than your regular meeting to help create the song. Next week in the house church teach it to one another and sing to the Lord. If you can't create a new song, then learn a song that has already been written and share it next week in your meeting.

8. Collect an Offering

9. The Lord's Supper

10. Closing Prayer

Foundations of the Christian Life

Lesson Sixteen: Everyone Participates

Main Idea: The Holy Spirit gives everyone something to share in the house church meeting, and we all benefit from everyone's participation.

1. Sing a Song

2. Opening Prayer

3. Everyone say out loud, one at a time, the Scripture memorized last week.

- *Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. (Colossians 3:16 NIV)*
- **Leader: praise those who memorized the verse. Offer to help those who did not. Break into groups of two or three to practice the verse if necessary.**

4. Homework

- **Leader: before discussing this week's lesson, have everyone report on how they did on the homework from last week.**
- **Homework:** This week pick a psalm or another passage from the Bible and turn it into a song. Meet with other Christians at another time than your regular meeting to help create the song. Next week in the house church teach it to one another and sing to the Lord. If you can't create a new song, then learn a song that has already been written and share it next week in your meeting.

5. Repeat out loud. Memorize for next week.

- *What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up. (1 Corinthians 14:26)*

NIV)

- **The Leader reads and repeats these verses, and the group says them together out loud, two times. Challenge the group to memorize them.**

6. Teaching from the Bible

A. Leader: ask the following questions to introduce the lesson.

- Is there a special time or special event in a family when everyone comes together and everyone works together?
- Does a village ever do this?
- As followers of Jesus, every time we meet together as a church, we do this. Everyone participates so that everyone benefits.

B. Have someone read 1 Corinthians 14:26 out loud. The leader summarizes the passage in their own words, and let the group add anything left out. Then read the passage a second time, and have someone else in the group summarize the verses in their own words. Let the group add anything missed. Now discuss the questions below.

- When do you come together with other Christians?
- Are there times other than the house church meeting when you gather? What do you do in these gatherings?
- The verse teaches that when we meet, each one of us has something to share. In your meetings, is everyone invited to participate?
- The verse says everything we do when we meet must be done to build up the church. Everything we share and do must make each other stronger and encourage one another.
- Tell us about a time when you have been encouraged by what other believers have shared in your meetings?
- When was a time you shared something that encouraged others?

C. Leader: read the following explanation to the group.

- The verse lists several examples of things we can share in the meeting to encourage each other. Let's describe them a little further.
- A hymn means a song to share and to teach others to sing so they can praise God.
- A word of instruction means a brief word or explanation that helps others know God better.
- A revelation means something God has shown you by this Spirit. For example, the Spirit may prompt you to discuss a particular Bible story in the meeting, or he may guide you to pray for healing for sick person in the village, or he may send you to share Jesus with a friend in another village, or he may tell you do something loving for a person opposing Christians.
- A tongue means a special language for prayer. It will probably not be a language you or anyone else knows but the Spirit will move in you to pray in this language. An interpretation means an explanation in your native tongue of what is said in a tongue (or special language for prayer) in the house church meeting.

D. Leader: discuss the following questions to explore 1 Corinthians 14:26 further.

- When have the things mentioned in 1 Corinthians 14:26 been shared in our meetings? How did it build us up?
- Is everyone welcomed and encouraged to share in our meetings? What can we do to encourage everyone to participate in the meetings?
- Does anyone have one of these to share right now?

E. Leader: read the following summary to the group.

- Each and every Christian has the Holy Spirit living within him or her. Everyone one of us! One of the things the Spirit does is give each of us something to share with other believers that encourages others. If we withhold sharing what the Spirit gives us, we rob other's of the Spirit's gift.

If we take too much time and keep others from sharing, we rob others of sharing the Spirit's gift. In our meetings, we make time for each person who wants to share to offer what the Spirit gives them so we all benefit. No one is forced, but everyone is invited and encouraged.

7. Homework

- **The Leader shares the homework with the group and encourages them to complete it before the next meeting.**
- **Homework:** This week make plans to allow members of the group who do not normally facilitate or lead the meetings to do so. Ask them ahead of time if they are willing to facilitate or share. Meet ahead of time to help them prepare. Encourage them in the next meeting as they lead and share.

8. Collect an Offering

9. The Lord's Supper

10. Closing Prayer