Rooted In Christ

Learning the core truths and practices of following Jesus

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"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come... I have been crucified with Christ, I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live, I live by faith in the son of God who loved me, and gave himself for me" (2 Corinthians 5:17 + Galatians 2:20)

ABOUT THIS STUDY

This study is designed to help believers root themselves in the basic truths and practices of what it means to follow Jesus together for the good of the world. Whether you're a new believer or have been following Jesus for decades, it is important that we build our lives on the firm foundation of Christ, the Gospel, and the core relational practices of meeting Him in the scriptures and prayer. Everything flows from these foundational truths and practices. This study is designed to root us these fundamentals- the gospel, the bible, prayer, relationship with believers, and relationship with the lost. Rooting yourself in Him, these practices, and relationships leads to a life of fruitfulness and flourishing in Christ.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide is best used in community, especially a one-on-one discipleship relationship. Refer to the appendix for a Leaders Guide. Spend a week in each lesson. Each week is comprised of four sections:

1- BIG IDEA - This section provides an overview of the topic for the week and its importance to the Christian life.

2- BIBLE CONVERSATION - Each week flows from the Scriptures, unpacking what God says about each core aspect of life in Christ. We recommend using the **SOAP** guide (in the appendix) to engage in the Scriptures. If you're working through this with someone else, it is recommended to read the Scripture ahead of your meeting, as well as together.

3- NEXT STEPS - Each week comes with recommended resources for you to take into the week to apply these truths into your life and establish rhythms in your relationship with God and others.. Think of this as "homework," rooting the truth from that week's lesson.

4- GO DEEPER - If you want to stretch yourself, we also recommend further resources to take that week's topic a bit deeper. You can use these resources in conjunction with that week's study, or revisit these topics after completing the guide to take things further. These tools can be found on the church's Resources Page at www.thewellsilverspring.org/resources

Lesson 1

The Gospel

BIG IDEA

The gospel is the good news about Jesus- it's the best and most important news you'll ever hear. It is the single most life transforming thing you could believe, accept, trust in, live out, and share. Believing in the gospel makes you a Christian; living in response to the gospel shapes our daily walk with Jesus.

"The gospel is not just the ABCs but the A to Z of the Christian life. It is inaccurate to think the gospel is what saves non-Christians, and then Christians mature by trying hard to live according to biblical principles. It is more accurate to say that we are saved by believing the gospel, and then we are transformed in every part of our minds, hearts, and lives by believing the gospel more and more deeply as life goes on (see Romans 12:1-2; Philippians 1:6; 3:13–14)." – Tim Keller

Simply stated this is the gospel- God has rescued us and redeemed His creation, through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

It is important that we ground ourselves in the core truth of the gospel, as God's grace more fully understood and embraced will transform our identity and our lives. Everything else in our Christian life comes back to this foundational good news and builds off of it.

BIBLE CONVERSATION

Ephesians 2:1-10 is one of the clearest presentations of the gospel in the Scriptures. Spend time on your own and together studying this passage to unpack what it says about the gospel. Use the **SOAP** document found in the appendix to guide your time with God in this passage.

Ephesians 2:1-10

> [1] And you were dead in the trespasses and sins [2] in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— [3] among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the flesh and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. [4] But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, [5] even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—[6] and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, [7] so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. [8] For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, [9] not a result of works, so that no one may boast. [10] For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

- How does this passage describe us (and all of humanity) as we were before being rescued?
- What does the passage tell us about God? What does He do, why does He do it? How?
- Plot the progression of man's status and the work done by God throughout this passage.
- How would you summarize the bad news of the passage? How would you summarize the good news of the passage?
- How are we saved? What does man do and what role do "works" play in the process?
- How are we to respond to the truths of this passage?

Each of the below four verses highlight slightly different aspects of the gospel, while capturing the core message of the gospel. How would you summarize each in your own words?

John 3:16 - "[16]For God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

Romans 6:23 - "[23]The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

1 Peter 3:18 - "[18]For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit."

Colossians 1:19-20 - "[19]For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, [20]and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross."

NEXT STEPS

The gospel is evident on every page of Scripture. Use the **Gospel** document found on The Well's Resources Page to familiarize yourself with different Scriptures that explain different parts of the gospel. Use the **SOAP** doc on one section per day to dig deeper into what each passage has to say. Consider choosing one verse per section to memorize.

GO DEEPER

Work through **Gospel Roots**, a four week study on the gospel found on The Well's Resources Page designed to be used in 3Ds. The purpose of this study is to root you in the fundamentals of the gospel. Consider doing this in your 3D, with another person, or in your own devotional time with the Lord.

Lesson 2

My Story & Idolatry

BIG IDEA

Becoming a Christian is a wholesale identity shift. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." We were once dead in our sins, but are now alive in Christ. We were orphans, we are now sons and daughters. We are new.

It's critical to understand this identity change in your own specific story - who you were before you met Christ, how Christ met you, and who you are now that Christ has transformed you. The more we understand our own stories, the more we come to appreciate the grace of God and live obediently and joyfully as His children.

Sometimes this will be a struggle as our old identities linger and our current misplaced desires attempt to shape who we are and how we live. In his book *Counterfeit God*, Tim Keller defines an idol as "anything more important to you than God, anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God, anything you seek to give you what only God can give....A counterfeit god is anything so central and essential to your life that, should you lose it, your life would feel hardly worth living."

We all struggle to find our value, identity, purposes, love and joy in Jesus alone. When we pursue anything else for our primary identities or purpose, we will not enjoy or glorify God fully. When we find ourselves in Christ alone, He then brings greater joy, purpose, and life to every other aspect of who we are and how we live.

BIBLE CONVERSATION

Use the **SOAP** document on your own to study the following passages that teach on our transformation from the old to the new. As you study these passages, consider how each speaks to the reality of your story in Christ. Ask three questions for each passage- What does it say (rephrase it)? What does it mean (summarize it). So what (why does it matter)?

Romans 6:4 - "[4]We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

Galatians 2:20 - "[20]I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

John 1:12 - "[12]Yet to those who received Jesus, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God."

Colossians 3:1–4 - "[1]If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. [2]Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. [3]For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. [4]When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."

1 Thessalonians 1:9–10 - "[9]For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, [10]and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come."

NEXT STEPS

Use the **Sharing My Story** document in the appendix to write out your own story. It will help you to think through the different parts of your story, the idols you were chasing after, and how Christ has met and transformed you. Ask God to provide you an opportunity to share your story with someone.

To help you discover what idols exist in your own life, consider whether any of the following statements resonate with you.

"Life only has meaning/I only have worth if..."

- I have power and influence over others.
- I am loved and respected by _____.
- I have this kind of pleasure experience, a particular quality of life.
- I am able to get mastery over my life in the area of _____.
- People are dependent on me and need me.
- Someone is there to protect me and keep me safe.
- I am completely free from obligations or responsibilities to take care of someone.
- I am highly productive and getting a lot done.
- I am being recognized for my accomplishments, and I am excelling at my work.
- I have a certain level of wealth, financial freedom, and very nice possessions.
- I am adhering to my religion's moral codes and accomplished in its activities.
- This one person is in my life and is happy with me.
- I feel I am totally independent of organized religion and am living a self-made morality.
- A particular social grouping or professional grouping or another group lets me in.
- My children and/or my parents are happy and happy with me.
- Mr. or Ms. "Right" is in love with me.
- I am hurting or facing a problem. Only then do I feel worthy of love or avoid guilt.
- My political or social cause is making progress and ascending in influence or power.
- I have a particular kind of look or body image.

GO DEEPER

Work through **The Gospel-Centered Life Leader's Guide,** a nine-week study that helps us understand how the gospel shapes every aspect of life. You can find more information on that study on The Well's Resources Page, including a link to purchase the guide. It is best done in a group setting, such as a 3D, but can be used devotionally.

Lesson 3

Relationship With God

BIG IDEA

Your relationship with God is central to every other relationship in your life. The spiritual rhythms in this relationship are means in which we orient our lives around our relationship with God. Two key rhythms - for relationship with God - are Scripture (hearing from God) and Prayer (talking with God).

Scripture is our primary source for truth. It is God's main avenue for revealing to us who He is, who we are, His redemptive work through Jesus, and how to live. The Bible therefore is our primary method for knowing who God is, how to live faithfully day to day, and other key questions about life, humanity, and more. The bible is God's very words. We must spend regular time in God's Word to get to know Him and to be transformed by Him. This means slowly meditating on pieces of Scripture, studying the bible for ourselves, memorizing Scripture, and discussing the Word with others. We recommend using the **SOAP** document to give you a foundational tool to read Scripture.

Prayer is simply talking to God. It is the act of being in our Father's presence. It is about cherishing a relationship with our living God. We can pray at any time, anywhere, about anything. God wants us to pray! He wants us to talk to Him honestly, to express our joys, bring Him our worries, and our praises. If Scripture is God's primary method of speaking to us, prayer is our primary method for speaking to God. It is a core facet of the Christian life and necessary for us to walk with God and grow in intimacy with Him. It's also a journey. We recommend using the **Morning & Evening** document in the appendix to give you a way to structure prayer in your daily life.

We highly recommend using a journal to take notes of your interactions with God in the Scripture (**SOAP**) and your prayers. This will help keep you focused on Him in your times with God, and become a great record of your growing relationship with God.

BIBLE CONVERSATION

Use the **SOAP** document (found in the appendix) to study what the following passage has to say about Scripture. Ask three questions for each passage- What does it say (rephrase it)? What does it mean (summarize it). So what (why does it matter)?

2 Timothy 3:14–17 - "[14]But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it [15]and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. [16]All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, [17]that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

Use the **SOAP** document to study what the following passage has to say about Prayer.

Matthew 6:9–13 - "[9] Pray then like this: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. [10] Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. [11] Give us this day our daily bread, [12] and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. [13] And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.'"

NEXT STEPS

Use the **SOAP** document to spend daily time in the Gospel of Mark and then in the Book of Ephesians. Read as much or as little per day as you'd like, but make sure to use the **SOAP** document to help you intentionally interact with what God is saying through those Scriptures.

Also use the **Morning & Evening** document in the appendix to establish a basic framework for daily prayer. Familiarize yourself with the document, set aside two periods of time in the day, and spend daily time in prayer.

GO DEEPER

Use the **Bible as One Story** document found on The Well's Resources Page to help you understand how the Bible is one interconnected story. As you begin to see the connective tissue between all of Scripture, your understanding will deepen and your appreciation for the Lord will grow.

To Go Deeper in your ability to study the Scriptures, refer to the **Grow** doc found on The Well's Resources Page. This resource helps you dig in a bit deeper than the **SOAP** doc, showing you how to use things like commentaries, study bibles, and other resources to go a bit deeper in the Word.

To Go Deeper in your prayer life, refer to the **ACTS** and **Kneeling Prayer** documents found on The Well's Resources Page. These both are ways of structuring how you pray, giving you categories to think through and pray about.

The **Creative Ways to Pray** document found on The Well's Resources Page helps you think through other ways to establish a rhythm of prayer in your life, including prayer walks and prayer cards.

Lesson 4

Relationship with People

BIG IDEA

Our vertical relationship with God transforms our horizontal relationships with others (both believers and non-believers). God has created us for relationship. The primary way Christians live in community with believers is the church–God's family. Believers need the church to most fully enjoy Him, in order to mature in Christ and to obey Jesus by loving others. By being a part of a local church we surround ourselves with other believers who can mutually encourage each other in the faith, pray for one another, and live lives in intimate relationships–knowing and being known. The church gives us an avenue to obey God by serving one another, and by using our time and talents to engage in the mission and purpose of God.

Second, the Christian life is the life of witness–living that others who do not yet believe in Jesus might know the good news! When Jesus saves us, He invites us to follow Him, towards those who do not yet know how amazing a Savior He is. No matter where we are at in our journey with Christ, He can speak through us to tell others about the Gospel. The woman at the well in John 4 (consider using **SOAP** on this passage) is a beautiful picture of someone whose life is dramatically transformed by meeting Jesus, and then immediately tells others about him. Whether the prospect of telling others about Jesus is exciting or terrifying to you, we find confidence that it is God who transforms us and works through us to spread the good news! We are called to take the initiative to share the gospel of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit, and leave the results to God.

BIBLE CONVERSATION

Use the **SOAP** document to study what the following passage has to say about community life together with believers in the church. Ask three questions for each passage- What does it say (rephrase it)? What does it mean (summarize it). So what (why does it matter)?

Acts 2:42–47 - "[42] And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. [43] And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. [44] And all who believed were together and had all things in common. [45] And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. [46] And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, [47] praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved."

Use the **SOAP** document to study what the following passage has to say about our call to be a witness to those who do not yet believe in Jesus. Ask three questions for each passage- What does it say (rephrase it)? What does it mean (summarize it). So what (why does it matter)?

Matthew 28:16–20 - "[16] Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. [17] And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. [18] And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'"

NEXT STEPS

Use the **Sharing My Story** document in the appendix to work out your own story of how God has transformed your life. One of the most powerful ways we can share the gospel is through sharing our own story, just like the woman at the well in John 4. Use this document to write out your story. Then pray for opportunities to share that story with your neighbors, coworkers, friends and family.

Use the **To Whom, How** document in the appendix to consider who God has placed naturally in your life who doesn't know Jesus. List out three names and commit to pray for them regularly. Pray also for opportunities to tell them about Jesus. Use the resource to intentionally figure out ways to increase physical and relational proximity with these people, listen for moments to share the good news.

If you are not connected into a Community Group, email info@thewellsilverspring.org so we can help get you connected into a community of other believers. If you are not already serving in some capacity on a Sunday morning, email us as well so we can talk through what it might look like for you to serve.

GO DEEPER

To Go Deeper in your ability to share the gospel, refer to the **15-Second Testimony** and **Gospel Sharing Video from Pastor Matt** found on The Well's Resources Page. The first gives you a framework of how to share your story in just 15 seconds, offering a taste of the gospel that invites people to ask more. The latter provides another framework of how to communicate the gospel.

Consider watching **a video from Sam Chan**, author of *How to Talk About Jesus (Without Being That Guy),* found on The Well's Resources Page. In this video, Chan offers practical ways of creating space for gospel conversations with people you probably have listed on your **To Whom, How** doc.

To Go Deeper in your relationship with the church, go to **The Well's Membership** page. There you will learn more about what membership is, why it's important, and how to sign up for our next Membership Class

Leader's Guide

"And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'" - Matthew 28:18–20

We are all called to make disciples. Our hope is that anyone would be able to take this new believer discipleship tool - **Rooted in Christ** - and help one or two newer believers work through the content, rooting them in their discipleship to Jesus. Here is a short guide for you as a leader to use as you make disciples with **Rooted in Christ**. Use the guide to supplement the content in each lesson.

First, invite someone who is younger in their faith to do **Rooted in Christ** with you.

Before you even begin Lesson 1 together, have a meeting, coffee, or lunch where you learn more about each other's story, where they are in their Christian walk, and what they're hoping to get out of this time. Ask about why they want to do this, share why you want to do this, etc. Then look at and encourage them to familiarize themselves with the **SOAP** doc before your next meeting.

Make sure to begin and end each meeting with prayer. Pray both for their growth from the material you're working through, as well as anything else going on in your lives.

LESSON 1

- Read the *Big Idea* section together.
- Work through the *Bible Conversation* section.
- For homework, have them spend time each day in the **Gospel** doc. They should use the **SOAP** doc each day on one section to study at least one passage in that section. Encourage them to write their **SOAP** responses down in a journal.
- Highlight the **Gospel Roots** study in the *Go Deeper* section. Encourage them to work through that after completing **Rooted in Christ**.

LESSON 2

- Review last lesson's homework. Ask them if they spent time using the **SOAP** doc on the **Gospel** verses. Ask if they can explain the gospel to you, even just stating the titles of each section from the doc. Work through them together.
- Read the *Big Idea* section together.
- Work through the *Bible Conversation* section.
- For homework, have them review the **Sharing My Story** doc and work on writing their own story. Have them plan on sharing it with you the next time you meet.
- Second, there is a list of statements that help identify idols. Have them spend time reviewing the statements to see if any strike a chord with them.
- Highlight **The Gospel-Centered Life**. This is a nine-week study they can do after finishing **Rooted in Christ** to dig deeper into how the gospel shapes every aspect of life.

LESSON 3

- Review last lesson's homework. Have them share their story with you. Then spend time discussing the idol statements. Were there any that stuck out to them? What idols might this point to in their life? Share your own. Discuss how the gospel meets you and them in idolatry and how it is good news for each of you specifically
- Read the *Big Idea* section together.
- Work through the *Bible Conversation* section.
- For homework, they will be using the **SOAP** doc in daily study of the Scriptures. Hopefully by this point they will be familiar with how to use **SOAP** since you've been using it in the *Bible Conversations*, but make sure they understand how it works. Have them spend time using SOAP daily, either in Mark or Ephesians. Based on your understanding of the person, suggest a reading plan for them from those books (i.e. how many verses per day, which book to read, etc.). Encourage them to journal as they read, as well as list any questions that arise for you two to discuss.
- Second, introduce them to the **Morning & Evening** prayer tool. They will use this tool to establish a daily rhythm of prayer.
- Highlight the various *Go Deeper* resources. There are two tools for further growth in reading the bible and two tools for growth in prayer. Encourage them to explore these tools after they've gained a grasp on the **SOAP** and **Morning & Evening** tools, particularly after there is evidence they are regularly spending time in the Word and prayer. The initial goal is to establish the habit - these *Go Deeper* resources can be referenced later.

LESSON 4

- Review their homework from the previous lesson. Ask them if they were able to establish a regular rhythm of reading the Word and prayer each day. Where did they see fruit? Where was it challenging? Help them work through any challenges they may have faced.
- Read the *Big Idea* section together.
- Work through the *Bible Conversation* section.
- For homework, have them work through the **To Whom, How** doc and commit to praying for each person on the list. Challenge them to consider ways they can either increase their proximity with those people and go deeper in their conversations. They will also revisit the **Sharing My Story** doc and think about ways they can share their story with the people on their **To Whom, How** doc.
- Second, ask them if they are involved in a Community Group or serving in any capacity. Challenge them to email info@thewellsilverspring.org if they are not. Invite them into your own group or help them to connect with another group.

Lesson 4 is the final lesson of this study. Meet up one last time after this lesson to review the homework from Lesson 4. Then have a conversation about what they have learned from this time, where they want to grow deeper (this could be more time with a tool they've already worked through or one of the *Go Deeper* resources), and whether you want to continue meeting with them. Perhaps do the **Gospel Roots** or **The Gospel-Centered Life** study. Or read one of the gospels or Ephesians together using the **SOAP** guide.

SOAP

Scripture

Read a short passage in the bible each day. Pick up tomorrow where you left off today.[1] Read a paragraph, or even a full chapter. As you read, take note of where God's words jump out to you. Talk with Him in prayer as you read, ask Him to speak to you through His word.

Observe

Listen intently to get to know God in His word. What is He saying in this passage? Use some or all of the below prompts to help guide you. Consider writing your thoughts in a journal.

1. What words, themes, or phrases stick out?
2. Does the passage present a specific command or promise?
3. What questions does the passage raise for you?
4. What is the surrounding context of the passage, how does this impact what you have just read?
5. Summarize, in a sentence or two, the main idea/principle of the passage.

Apply

Write down what difference this makes in your life. Use some or all of the below prompts to guide you. Listen for how God wants to reveal Himself, change you, compel you, in light of what you have heard from Him.

1. How does the passage connect with your life right now? Write a specific way to respond to His word..
2. Why does this matter for your relationship with God, or your relationship with others?
3. Is there something for you to believe that you didn't believe before? Is God prompting you to do (or not do) something in response to His words? Is God compelling you to share this truth with someone?
4. How does this point you to Jesus, His love for, forgiveness, grace, in your life?

Pray

Now spend a few minutes talking to God. You may want to write down a short prayer. Use some or all of the following prompts to guide you.

1. Praise God for who He is, thank Him for specific ways He has shown His faithfulness in your life.
2. Talk transparently with God about any frustrations, fears, doubt, joys, praises, or confusion. Ask Him for further clarity, and the power to obey. Talk to Him, and ask Him for whatever comes to mind.
3. Confess where you fall short, especially consider what you have just read.
4. Thank Him for Jesus, who loves you, has forgiven you, is with you, and whose Spirit dwells in you.

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[1] *If reading the bible is new for you, start in one of the gospels. Try Mark, then Luke, then John. Next move on to a few epistles- try Ephesians, then Phillipians. Consider reading Romans after that. Pepper in the Psalms, which provide a great place to begin in relationship with God. Consider purchasing an ESV Study Bible, it's packed with great resources. Also be sure to check out our Resource Page for lots of helpful guidance.*

Sharing My Story

OVERVIEW

It is a transforming process to reflect on and prepare to share your story of salvation. In preparing to share how God rescued you, it's helpful to write a few things down. Take some time to reflect and remember how God rescued you from sin and death, gave you a relationship with Himself, and now walks with you in newness of life. He is rich in mercy, love, and grace. Remembering how He rescued you will help you share with others what a great Savior He is, and soon they may have their own story to share.

MY BEGINNING AND A SHAPING: PURPOSE/IDENTITY/VALUE

Growing Up- What was your family like, what did they value? What were your interests, where did you find purpose? Were there crashes/brokenness where your sinfulness surfaced? What has wounded you? Destructive life patterns? What emotions marked your life (joy/sorrow/emptiness/striving/anger/anxiety etc.)?

HOW I TRIED SAVING MYSELF: PSEUDO SAVIORS

Pseudo Saviors- What ways did you try to "fill your gaps" in your life and world? How did you avoid the pain, fill the holes, seek life in other places? Performance, alcohol, money, moralism, success, appearance, good works, sex, power, pornography, romance, children, family, etc. What did you do, believe, seek for security, purpose, hope, joy?

GOD STEPPED IN TO REDEEM: NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

Grace- How did God bring "Good-News" into your life? What events, people, truths revealed to you who Jesus is and what He has done for you? What did He uniquely redeem in your life (consider your unique gaps and pseudo saviors)? How is the gospel good-news for you specifically?

RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD: DAILY LIFE IN CHRIST

Daily Grace- How is God pouring grace into your life now? How would you describe His call on your life? What ways are you coming to know Him more? Where do you find joy in with Him? How did your relationship with God change something about your life this year, this week, today?

Morning & Evening

MORNING PRAYER - *COMMIT, SUBMIT, ACCEPT*

COMMIT

Spend time praising God for who He is. Let your praise turn to committing your day to Him. Commit to live for Him alone. Talk with Him about the implications this has for you today.

SUBMIT

God is all powerful and fully good. Submit and release your plans to Him. Ask that you would be faithful to Him in any changes, and that you would be present and loving with others in those moments.

ACCEPT

Preemptively accept His grace. Accept His strength and power to do what He has called you into today. Accept His grace for times you may fall short in what He has called you to do and in who He has called you to be. Let His grace empower and compel your obedience.

EVENING PRAYER - *REJOICE, REPENT, RECEIVE*

REJOICE

Rejoice over how God met you today. What specific things can you thank and praise Him for? What blessings did He provide? What struggles did He carry you through? Be specific and tangible. Praise Him for who He is and what He has done.

REPENT

Where did you fall short today? Confess things you said, did, didn't say, didn't do, thought, wanted, looked at, avoided, felt. Be honest. He knows you, forgives you, and loves you. Let His overwhelming grace empower, compel, and sustain your relationship and obedience.

RECEIVE

Receive how God showed Himself to you today. Did He reveal something in the scriptures, though a relational interaction, or in a circumstance? Listen to what He is telling you in His word, by the Spirit, and in your day with Him.

To Whom, How?

ABOUT THIS RESOURCE

We love Jesus. We love people. We want the people we love to know the Savior we love. This is a guide to help you live intentionally so that the people around you hear about Jesus through you. Fill it out, jot notes as you go, make changes as God directs and the Spirit moves. This is a living document to shape your ongoing relationships.

PLACE: WHO IS JESUS CALLING ME TOWARDS?

- Where am I currently placed in Time + Place- Neighbors, Coworkers, Friends, Family, Hobbies... etc?
- Who do I enjoy time with, who has been receptive to relationship, or even some spiritual conversations?

List three people with whom you want to build a relationship. Pray for them often.

_____ _____ _____

GET CLOSER: HOW CAN WE GROW CLOSER?

- How can I increase my physical + relational proximity to these three people?
- What steps will I take to do so?

GO DEEPER: ASK QUESTIONS + LISTEN FOR WHERE GOD IS ALREADY MOVING.

- What questions can I ask to go a little deeper relationally? Engage conversation with curiosity, rather than preaching, judging, or condemning. **Listen for:** "How is Jesus good news to this person?"
- Three GREAT Questions to ask- 1- What religion did your parents raise you in? 2- What's your story? Could you tell me a little more about... I'd love to hear how that impacted... changed... shaped... maybe over a coffee... 3- What do you think about spirituality/faith?
- As people share more deeply, as the Spirit leads... a. Share how Jesus is good news for their life. b. Share your own story, how Jesus has impacted your life. c. Invite them! Invite them to places they'll meet your Christian friends. Invite them to visit church (or 3D's). Invite them to read the bible (or a book) together.

  Other Questions that may surface purpose, peace, joy, identity etc. Do you enjoy your job? How did _____ make you feel? If they share something hard, ask- "Can I pray for you?" and do so on the spot. What's making you anxious/joyful/sad etc? How's family... kids... your marriage? What do you wish you could change? Did you ever go to church? Who's influenced you? Who are your heroes? What was your dad, mom like? What are you reading? I need your advice on _____. Do you pray? What do you think happens when you die? What do you think about Jesus/bible? What would you ask God?

THE GOSPEL: "GOOD NEWS"

God saves sinners through faith in Jesus' life/death/resurrection. We can have a relationship with the Living God! Connect this good news to their places of longing, brokenness, joy, hope, identity, etc.

1. God made us for a life-giving relationship with Him. Psalm 100:3; Acts 17:24-28
2. We all broke this relationship, desiring to live life our own way. Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:23
3. The penalty for breaking this relationship is death now and to come. Romans 6:23; Isaiah 59:2
4. Jesus paid your penalty, taking God's wrath, giving you his righteousness, rising again. 1 Pt. 3:18; Rom. 5:8
5. Receive Him, begin living/experiencing life in relationship with God. Jn 1:12, 3:36; Eph 2:8-10