

ROOTED

GROUPS

Leader Guide

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SESSION 1: SAVED

The Doctrine Of Salvation

1. Salvation Defined

Atonement

- The atonement is the work Christ completed through His death, where He satisfied the wrath of God, paid the penalty for sin, and **reconciled** us back to God.
- Scripture References:
 - But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.
Isaiah 53:5 (ESV)
 - He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.
1 Peter 2:24 (ESV)
- Key Insights
 - Jesus didn't die as an example. He died as a **substitute**.
 - God's wrath was not ignored; it was **absorbed** by Christ.
 - Atonement restores what sin destroyed: **relationship**.

Justification

- Justification is the act of God declaring a sinner righteous by faith through Christ alone, not earned, but **imputed**.
- Scripture References:
 - Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Romans 5:1 (ESV)
 - For our sake, he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)
- Key Insights
 - Justification is a **legal declaration**, not a slow process.
 - You are not partially forgiven; you are **fully righteous** in Christ.
 - God sees you through the **finished work** of His Son.



2. What Are We Saved From?

The Righteousness Of God

→ Scripture Reference:

- For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness.
Romans 1:18 (ESV)

→ Key Insight:

- God's righteousness demands that sin be **judged**.

The Holiness Of God

→ Scripture Reference:

- You shall be holy, for I am holy.
1 Peter 1:16 (ESV)

→ Key Insight:

- God's holiness reveals our **sinfulness** and our need for a Savior.

The Justice Of God

→ Scripture Reference:

- For the wages of sin is death.
Romans 6:23 (ESV)

→ Key Insight:

- Sin demands a **payment**, and Jesus took that payment on Himself.

3. Our Position Prior To Salvation

Separated

→ Scripture Reference:

- Your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God.
Isaiah 59:2 (ESV)

→ Key Insight:

- Sin doesn't just harm us; it **distances** us from God.



Dead

→ Scripture Reference:

- And you were dead in the trespasses and sins.
Ephesians 2:1 (ESV)

→ Key Insight:

- We didn't need improvement; we needed **resurrection**.

Without Hope

→ Scripture Reference:

- Having no hope and without God in the world.
Ephesians 2:12 (ESV)

→ Key Insight:

- Without Christ, we lacked both **direction** and **destination**.

4. What Jesus' Death Accomplishes

God Is Pleased With Christ's Sacrifice

→ Scripture References:

- It was the will of the LORD to crush him.
Isaiah 53:10 (ESV)
- This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.
Matthew 3:17 (ESV)

→ Key Insight:

- Jesus' sacrifice was the **full payment** God required.

We Are Forgiven

→ Scripture References:

- Having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt.
Colossians 2:13-14 (ESV)
- In him we have redemption... the forgiveness of our trespasses.
Ephesians 1:7 (ESV)

→ Key Insight:

- Forgiveness is **complete**. Jesus canceled every sin.



We Are Made New

→ Scripture References:

- He is a new creation.
2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)
- Jesus models baptism.
Matthew 3:13-17 (ESV)
- Repent and be baptized.
Acts 2:38 (ESV)
- Walk in the newness of life.
Romans 6:3-4 (ESV)

→ Key Insight:

- God didn't fix the old you. He created a **new you**.
- In baptism, we identify with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, declaring that our old life is gone and our **new life** is found in Him.

We Are Adopted And Brought Near

→ Scripture References:

- He predestined us for adoption.
Ephesians 1:5 (ESV)
- Have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
Ephesians 2:13 (ESV)

→ Key Insight:

- Salvation doesn't just forgive you, it **claims** you as family.

5. Receiving Salvation

Salvation Is A Gift

→ Scripture References:

- It is the gift of God.
Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV)
- The free gift of God is eternal life
Romans 6:23 (ESV)

→ Key Insight:

- A gift is not earned; it is **received**.



Salvation Is Not Earned

→ Scripture References:

- Not because of work.
Titus 3:5 (ESV)
- No one will be justified by works.
Romans 3:20 (ESV)

→ Key Insight:

- We brought nothing but the **sin** that made salvation necessary.

Salvation Includes Transformation

→ Scripture References:

- Unless one is born again.
John 3:3 (ESV)
- You have been born again.
1 Peter 1:23 (ESV)

→ Key Insight:

- Salvation is not self-improvement; it is a **rebirth**.

6. Understanding Your Testimony

Leaders, help group members process and write out their responses. If time allows, discuss it together as a group. If not, include it in their weekly challenge.

→ Articulate:

- I once was _____
- How I encountered Jesus _____
- What I knew in that moment _____
- What I now know _____

→ Key Insight:

- Your testimony points not to your past, but to God's **grace**.

SESSION 1 SUMMARY

- Salvation rescues us from sin and restores us to God.
- We are forgiven, made new, adopted, and brought near.
- Salvation is received by grace, not earned by effort.
- A disciple understands their story and can share it clearly.



SESSION 2: SENT

The Doctrine Of Purpose

1. Sent Defined

- To be **sent** means every believer is called, commissioned, and empowered by Jesus to represent Him and participate in His mission in the world.
- Scripture Reference:
 - Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”
John 20:21 (ESV)
- Key Insights:
 - Salvation brings you **into** God’s family; sending brings you into God’s mission.
 - Sent is not a personality type; it’s an **identity**.
 - Every believer is a witness, **ambassador**, and representative.

2. What It Means To Be Sent

Sent With A Purpose

- Scripture Reference:
 - For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works.
Ephesians 2:10 (ESV)
- Key Insight:

God prepared your purpose **before** He saved you.

Sent With A Message

- Scripture Reference:
 - We are ambassadors for Christ.
2 Corinthians 5:20 (ESV)
- Key Insight:
 - You carry the **gospel**, not your own opinions.



Sent With Authority

- Scripture Reference:
 - All authority... Go therefore...
Matthew 28:18–19 (ESV)
- Key Insight:
 - We go in His **authority**, not our own ability.

Sent With Power

- Scripture Reference:
 - You will receive power... and you will be my witnesses...
Acts 1:8 (ESV)
- Key Insight:
 - The Spirit doesn't send you alone. He **empowers** you to live boldly.

3. Our Identity As Sent Ones

Representatives Of Jesus

- Scripture Reference:
 - Do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.
Colossians 3:17 (ESV)
- Key Insight:
 - Being sent means living in a way that **reveals** who Jesus is.

Lights In A Dark World

- Scripture Reference:
 - You are the light of the world.
Matthew 5:14 (ESV)
- Key Insight:
 - Sent people bring **clarity** and **hope** to darkness.

Bearers Of The Gospel

- Scripture Reference:
 - How are they to hear without someone preaching? ... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!
Romans 10:14–15 (ESV)
- Key Insight:
 - Your life is the **delivery** system of the gospel.



4. How We Live As Sent Ones

We Live Intentionally

- Scripture Reference:
 - Making the best use of the time.
Colossians 4:5 (ESV)
- Key Insight:
 - Every day is a **mission** opportunity.

We Live Set Apart

- Scripture Reference:
 - You are a chosen race... That you may proclaim...
1 Peter 2:9 (ESV)
- Key Insight:
 - Our lives should create **curiosity** about our God.

We Live Boldly

- Scripture Reference:
 - They spoke the word of God with boldness.
Acts 4:31 (ESV)
- Key Insight:
 - Boldness is produced by the **Spirit**, not personality.

5. Understanding Your “Sent” Calling

Leaders, help group members process and write out their responses. If time allows, discuss it together as a group. If not, include it in their weekly challenge.

- Identify:
 - Who is in my world?
 - Where is God positioning me?
 - What has God given me?
 - How can I take one step of obedience?
- Key Insight:
 - Your calling is not somewhere else; it's where you **already** are.

SESSION 2 SUMMARY

- Jesus doesn't just save us, He **sends** us.
- You are His ambassador, witness, representative, and light.
- The Holy Spirit empowers your assignment.
- Mission is not an event; it is an **identity**.
- You are saved from sin and sent on **purpose**.



SESSION 3: JESUS AS LORD

The Doctrine Of Christ's Authority

1. Jesus As Lord

→ To confess Jesus as **Lord** means that He is the supreme authority over all creation, all humanity, and every area of the believer's life.

He is not simply a Savior who rescues, He is the Lord who **rules**.

→ Scripture Reference:

- Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow... and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Philippians 2:9-11 (ESV)

→ Key Insights

- Jesus is not Lord because we acknowledge Him. He is Lord because the Father **declared** Him so.
- Lordship is not **optional** or advanced Christianity; it is the Christian life.
- Every person will eventually bow; disciples **bow** now.

2. The Universal Lordship Of Christ

Christ Is Lord Over All Creation

→ Scripture Reference:

- For by him all things were created... all things were created through him and for him... and in him all things hold together.

Colossians 1:16-17 (ESV)

→ Key Insights

- Jesus is the Creator, Sustainer, and Owner of all things.
- Lordship isn't limited to spiritual life. He is Lord of the **entire** universe.
- Discipleship starts by understanding **His** world, His terms.

Christ Is Lord Over All Humanity

→ Scripture Reference:

- Let all... know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ.

Acts 2:36 (ESV)



→ Key Insights

- Jesus is not one way among many. He is the **King** of kings.
- Lordship is God's **declaration**, not our decision.
- We don't "make Jesus Lord", we **submit** to the Lord He already is.

3. The Personal Lordship Of Jesus

Lord Of My Life

→ Scripture Reference:

- Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?
Luke 6:46 (ESV)

→ Key Insights

- Confession without obedience is a **contradiction**.
- Lordship is expressed through **obedience**, not emotion.
- Jesus leads, we **follow**.

Lord Of My Decisions

→ Scripture Reference:

- Trust in the Lord with all your heart... in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.
Proverbs 3:5-6 (ESV)

→ Key Insights

- Following Jesus means surrendering **control**.
- A disciple doesn't ask, "Is this my preference?" but "Is this **His will?**"
- Lordship brings **clarity**; disobedience brings confusion.

4. What Keeps Us From Lordship?

Self-Reliance

→ Scripture Reference:

- Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength.
Jeremiah 17:5 (ESV)

→ Key Insight

- Self-reliance is the enemy of **surrender**.



Pride

- Scripture Reference:
 - God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.
James 4:6 (ESV)
- Key Insight
 - Pride resists leadership; humility **receives** it.

Fear

- Scripture Reference:
 - Fear not... I am with you.
Isaiah 41:10 (ESV)
- Key Insight
 - Fear whispers, "You must stay in **control**."
 - Faith responds, "I can **trust** His control."

5. Understanding And Articulating Jesus As Lord

Leaders, help group members process and write out their responses. If time allows, discuss it together as a group. If not, include it in their weekly challenge.

- Describe how:
 - Jesus is Lord over me
 - Jesus is Lord in me
 - Jesus is Lord through me
 - Jesus is Lord in every part of my life
- **Key Insight:**
 - Lordship is not an event; it is a **posture**.

SESSION 3 SUMMARY

- Jesus is not just Savior, He is **Lord**.
- Lordship means He leads, we **follow**.
- Obedience is the natural **fruit** of surrender.
- Pride resists Him; **humility** receives Him.
- Every disciple must **answer**:
 - Will Jesus lead every part of my life?



SESSION 4: DAILY SURRENDER + OBEDIENCE

The Practice Of Yielding And Following

1. Surrender Defined

→ Surrender is the daily posture of yielding our will, desires, and decisions to Jesus as Lord.

→ Scripture Reference:

- If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me.

Luke 9:23 (ESV)

→ Key Insights:

- Discipleship requires **denial**, not indulgence.
- The cross is not symbolic; it is a lifestyle of **yieldedness**.
- Surrender is not losing; it is letting **God** lead.

2. The Daily Nature Of Surrender

Surrender Is Not One Decision; It Is Many

→ Scripture Reference:

- I die every day.

1 Corinthians 15:31 (ESV)

→ Key Insight:

- Spiritual authority grows where **self-will** dies.

Surrender Requires Trust

→ Scripture Reference:

- Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him.

Psalm 37:5 (ESV)

→ Key Insight:

- We surrender because we trust Him more than we trust **ourselves**.

3. Obedience Defined

→ Obedience is responding to God's leadership with action, quickly, fully, and joyfully.

→ Scripture Reference:

- If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

John 14:15 (ESV)



- Key Insights:
 - Obedience is the proof of love.
 - Slow obedience is disobedience.
 - Obedience isn't burdensome; it's freedom.

4. The Pathway Of Obedience

Obedience Begins With Hearing

- Scripture Reference:
 - Faith comes from hearing...
Romans 10:17 (ESV)
- Key Insight:
 - We cannot **obey** what we have not heard.

Obedience Continues With Action

- Scripture Reference:
 - Be doers of the **word**, and not hearers only.
James 1:22 (ESV)
- Key Insight:
 - Information without **action** produces stagnation.

Obedience Produces Transformation

- Scripture Reference:
 - Abide in my word... You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.
John 8:31-32 (ESV)
- Key Insight:
 - Obedience **unlocks** freedom that belief alone doesn't access.

5. Barriers to Surrender And Obedience

- Comfort - "I don't want to change."
- Control - "I want to lead my own life."
- Compromise - "I'll obey... partially."
- Scripture Reference:
 - For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit.
Galatians 5:17 (ESV)
- Key Insight:
 - Transformation happens when the flesh loses, and the Spirit wins.



6. Practicing Surrender And Obedience Daily

Leaders, help group members process and write out their responses. If time allows, discuss it together as a group. If not, include it in their weekly challenge.

- Describe how this fits in your daily life:
 - Morning surrender prayer (Lord, lead my life today.)
 - Daily evaluation (Where did I follow myself instead of Jesus?)
 - Obedience step (What action is Jesus asking for this week?)
- Key Insight:
 - Surrender is **repeated**; obedience is **revealed**.

SESSION 4 SUMMARY

- Jesus leads; disciples **follow**.
- Surrender is a **daily** posture.
- Obedience is the fruit of **love**.
- Where we resist, we don't **grow**.
- The more surrendered we are, the more **free** we become.
- **Every** day we ask:
 - What is Jesus asking me to lay down, and what is He asking me to pick up?



SESSION 5: THE WORD (AUTHORITY + REVELATION)

The Doctrine Of The Word Of God

1. The Nature Of Scripture

Scripture Is God-Breathed

→ Scripture Reference:

- All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
2 Timothy 3:16–17 (ESV)

→ Key Insights:

- Scripture originates from **God**, not man.
- God's Word forms, corrects, shapes, and **completes** us.
- A disciple cannot grow apart from God's **voice**.

Scripture Is Truth

→ Scripture Reference:

- Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.
John 17:17 (ESV)

→ Key Insights:

- Truth is not found, it is **revealed**.
- Scripture doesn't simply contain truth; it **is** truth.
- God changes us through His **Word**.

Scripture Is Eternal

→ Scripture Reference:

- The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.
Isaiah 40:8 (ESV)

→ Key Insights:

- Culture shifts - Scripture **stands**.
- Feelings fluctuate - Scripture is **fixed**.
- God's Word **outlasts** every human idea.



2. The Authority Of Scripture

God's Word Commands, Not Suggests

→ Scripture Reference:

- Forever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.
Psalm 119:89 (ESV)

→ Key Insights:

- Scripture is not optional; it is **absolute**.
- Authority means Scripture has the **final** say in all matters.
- **Obedience** begins where agreement ends.

Scripture Judges Our Thoughts

→ Scripture Reference:

- For the word of God is **living** and **active**, sharper than any two-edged sword.
Hebrews 4:12 (ESV)

→ Key Insights:

- God's Word cuts through **confusion**.
- It **exposes** motives and reveals truth.
- It shapes us by **confronting** what's false.

3. The Revelation Of Scripture

God Speaks Through His Word

→ Scripture Reference:

- Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
Psalm 119:105 (ESV)

→ Key Insights:

- God **guides** us step by step through the Word.
- Scripture **reveals** God's ways and God's heart.
- You cannot follow Jesus **apart** from His Word.

God Reveals Christ Through Scripture

→ Scripture Reference:

- He interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.
Luke 24:27 (ESV)



→ Key Insights:

- All Scripture **points** to Jesus.
- The goal of Bible reading is not information; it's **revelation**.
- Scripture reveals the **storyline** of redemption.

4. Why the Word Is Essential For Formation

The Word Transforms Us

→ Scripture Reference:

- Be transformed by the renewal of your mind.
Romans 12:2 (ESV)

→ Key Insights:

- Transformation begins with **truth**, not effort.
- Scripture **replaces** lies with God's thoughts.
- We **become** like what we meditate on.

The Word Strengthens Us

→ Scripture Reference:

- This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth.
Joshua 1:8 (ESV)

→ Key Insights:

- Success in God's eyes **begins** with Scripture.
- Meditation **leads** to obedience.
- Obedience produces **strength**.

The Word In Us

Leaders, help group members process and write out their responses. If time allows, discuss it together as a group. If not, include it in their weekly challenge.

→ Describe your devotional time:

- Bible Reading Plan
- Time and location

SESSION 5 SUMMARY

- The Word is God-breathed, true, and **eternal**.
- Scripture carries God's **authority** and forms disciples.
- The Bible is God's primary means of **revelation**.
- Transformation requires **renewing** the mind with truth.
- Every disciple must learn to read, trust, submit to, and **apply** Scripture.



SESSION 6: THE WORD - APPLICATION + TRANSFORMATION (SOAP METHOD)

The Doctrine Of Spiritual Formation

1. Why Application Matters

Hearing Without Doing Leads To Deception

→ Scripture Reference:

- But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.
James 1:22 (ESV)

→ Key Insights:

- Application is where **formation** happens.
- Knowledge without obedience leads to **self-deception**.
- Scripture is meant to be **lived**, not admired.

The Word Bears Fruit When Practiced

→ Scripture Reference:

- His delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.
Psalm 1:2-3 (ESV)

→ Key Insights:

- Meditation leads to **rootedness**.
- Rootedness produces **fruitfulness**.
- Scripture **shapes** our habits, and habits shape our lives.

2. The SOAP Method Explained

S - Scripture

Write down the passage God highlights.

→ Scripture Reference:

- Meditate on it day and night.
Joshua 1:8 (ESV)

→ Key Insight:

- Meditation starts with **attention**, noticing what God is saying.
- Writing slows the mind and opens the **heart**.



O - Observation

What does the passage say?

→ Scripture Reference:

- They received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily.
Acts 17:11 (ESV)

→ Key Insight:

- Discipleship requires **examination**, reading slowly, thoughtfully, and carefully.

A - Application

How does this change me today?

→ Scripture Reference:

- The one who looks into the perfect law... and perseveres... will be blessed in his doing.
James 1:25 (ESV)

→ Key Insight:

- Application turns information into **transformation**.

P - Prayer

Ask God for help to live it out.

→ Scripture Reference:

- Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things.
Psalm 119:18 (ESV)

→ Key Insight:

- Only the Spirit can **illuminate** the Word in our hearts.

3. Practicing The SOAP Method

Leaders, help group members process and write out their responses. If time allows, discuss it together as a group. If not, include it in their weekly challenge.

→ **S**cripture - Start with a single verse and write it down.

→ **O**bservation - What does this verse reveal about God and my heart?

→ **A**pplication - What is God calling me to obey?

→ **P**ray - Turn Scripture into conversation by praying it back to Him.



SESSION 6 SUMMARY

- Application is essential to spiritual **formation**.
- SOAP provides a simple pathway to **engage** Scripture.
- The Spirit uses the Word to **renew** our minds and transform our lives.
- The goal is not merely reading, it's **obeying**.
- Disciples grow by hearing, applying, and practicing God's Word **daily**.



SESSION 7: PRAYER (COMMUNION WITH GOD)

The Doctrine Of Prayer

Prayer Defined

- Prayer is the **ongoing**, relational communion between God and His people, where we speak to Him, listen to Him, and align our hearts with His will.
- Two foundational truths:
 1. Prayer is **relational**, not religious.
 2. Prayer is **formational**, not mechanical.

1. Why We Pray

God Initiates Relationship

- Scripture Reference:
 - You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to you, "Your face, Lord, do I seek."
Psalm 27:8 (ESV)
- Key Insights:
 - Prayer begins with God's **invitation**.
 - God desires **connection**, not performance.
 - When we pray, we respond to His **pursuit**.

Jesus Modeled Prayer

- Scripture Reference:
 - And rising very early... he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed."
Mark 1:35 (ESV)
- Key Insights:
 - If Jesus prayed, we must **pray**.
 - Prayer was Jesus' **source**, not His backup plan.
 - The model of Christ becomes the **rhythm** of a disciple.



2. What Prayer Is

Prayer as Communion

→ Scripture Reference:

- Abide in me, and I in you.
John 15:4 (ESV)

→ Key Insights:

- Prayer is abiding, staying spiritually **connected**.
- Fruitfulness flows from **remaining**, not striving.
- Communion is the **heart** of discipleship.

Prayer as Alignment

→ Scripture Reference:

- Your kingdom come, your will be done.
Matthew 6:10 (ESV)

→ Key Insights:

- Prayer **aligns** us with what God is doing.
- Prayer shifts our desires toward His **will**.
- Formation begins when our wants are **surrendered** to His ways.

3. How We Pray

With Confidence

→ Scripture Reference:

- Let us then, with confidence, draw near to the throne of grace.
Hebrews 4:16 (ESV)

→ Key Insights:

- **Confidence** comes from Christ, not performance.
- God **welcomes** us freely and fully.
- **Grace** removes hesitation.

With Persistence

→ Scripture Reference:

- That they ought always to pray and not lose heart.
Luke 18:1 (ESV)

→ **Key Insights:**

- Prayer is **cultivated**.
- **Persistence** strengthens faith.
- Consistency in prayer reveals **trust**.



4. Understanding and Leading Prayer

- Talk to God honestly
- Listening intentionally
- Praying Scripture
- Aligning desires with God's heart
- Approaching God with confidence, not shame

Reflection

- “Where is God inviting me into deeper communion this week?”

Leaders, model specific prayer by intentionally setting aside time for group prayer.

SESSION 7 SUMMARY

- Prayer **connects** us to God.
- Prayer **forms** us like Christ.
- Prayer **aligns** us with His will.
- Prayer **builds** confidence, intimacy, and trust.
- A disciple doesn't just pray; a disciple **communes**.



SESSION 8: PRACTICES THAT FORM US

Fasting, Listening, And Walking With God

1. The Practice of Fasting

Fasting Defined

- Fasting is voluntarily giving up food to focus the heart on God, weaken the flesh, and respond to spiritual hunger.
- Abstaining is removing something of value (social media, reading, hunting, etc.) to you, to focus on giving that time back to God.

Why We Fast

- Scripture Reference:
 - When you fast... your Father who sees in secret will reward you.
Matthew 6:16–18 (ESV)
Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, He was hungry.
Matthew 4: 1-2 (ESV)
- Key Insights:
 - Jesus **expects** fasting - “when you fast,” not “if.”
 - Jesus himself fasted before calling his disciples.
 - Fasting weakens the flesh so the spirit can **hear**.
 - Fasting is a **private** devotion leading to public strength.

What Fasting Produces

- Scripture Reference:
 - Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness.
Isaiah 58:6 (ESV)
- Key Insights:
 - Fasting **breaks** spiritual patterns.
 - Fasting opens the heart to **freedom**.
 - Fasting reminds us that God **sustains**, not food.



2. The Practice Of Listening

Listening Defined

- Listening is stilling the heart and tuning the spirit to hear the promptings, conviction, and leadership of the Holy Spirit.

Hearing God's Voice

- Scripture Reference:
 - My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. John 10:27 (ESV)
- Key Insights:
 - God **speaks** to His people.
 - His voice is **relational**, not mystical.
 - Listening leads to **following**.

The Posture Of Listening

- Scripture Reference:
 - Be still, and know that I am God. Psalm 46:10 (ESV)
- Key Insights:
 - Stillness **sharpens** spiritual hearing.
 - Noise competes; stillness **clarifies**.
 - Listening requires **margin**.

3. The Practice Of Partaking

Communion Defined

- Communion is the practice Jesus gave the Church to **remember** His sacrifice, celebrate our salvation, and keep our lives centered on the gospel.
- When we take communion, we remember that Jesus' body was broken for us and His blood was shed for the **forgiveness** of our sins. Communion is not about ritual; it is about remembrance, gratitude, worship, and humbly **examining** our hearts before the Lord.
- Communion is for those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ for salvation.



Why We Partake

- Scripture Reference:
 - This is my body.
Luke 22:19-20 (ESV)
 - Examine yourself.
1 Corinthians 11:26-28 (ESV)
- Key Insights:
 - Remembering His promise.
 - Not perfection, but **honesty**.
 - Saved, sustained, and living because of grace.

4. Walking With God

Walking Defined

- Walking with God is the **daily** practice of living in awareness of His presence, guidance, and empowerment through the Holy Spirit.

Walking Daily

- Scripture Reference:
 - If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.
Galatians 5:25 (ESV)
- Key Insights:
 - Walking is **ongoing** obedience.
 - The Spirit **leads**; we respond.
 - Formation happens **one** step at a time.

Walking Confidently

- Scripture Reference:
 - The Lord is my shepherd... He leads me.
Psalm 23:1-3 (ESV)
- Key Insights:
 - God is a Shepherd who **guides** gently.
 - You are not walking **alone**.
 - Guidance flows from **relationship**.



5. Leading These Practices

Leaders, help group members process and write out their responses. If time allows, discuss it together as a group. If not, include it in their weekly challenge.

- Choosing a fast
- Creating space for listening
- Recognizing God's daily leadership
- Responding to conviction
- Walking in dependence rather than independence

Reflection:

- "What practice is God inviting me to lean into this week (fasting, listening, or walking)?"

SESSION 8 SUMMARY

- Fasting tunes our **hunger**.
- Listening **trains** our ears.
- Walking shapes our **daily** steps.
- Spiritual practices don't earn God's love; they **awaken** us to His presence.
- A disciple doesn't just believe; a disciple **practices**.



SESSION 9: THE BODY OF CHRIST + BELONGING

The Doctrine Of The Church

1. The Church Defined

→ Ecclesiology (Doctrine of the Church)

- The Church is the redeemed people of God, gathered under the Lordship of Jesus, **empowered** by the Spirit, and **committed** to the mission of God in the world.

→ Scripture References:

- On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
Matthew 16:18 (ESV)

→ Key Insights:

- Jesus is the **builder**, not man.
- The Church is **His** - His people, His mission, His authority.
- The Church is **victorious**, not fragile.

2. The Church As A Body

→ Scripture Reference

- For just as the body is one and has many members... so it is with Christ.
1 Corinthians 12:12–14 (ESV)

→ Key Insights:

- We don't just attend church, we **belong** to a body.
- **Every** believer has a place, function, and purpose.
- Unity is not sameness; it's many parts working as **one**.

3. The Church As A Family

→ Scripture Reference:

- You are... members of the household of God.
Ephesians 2:19 (ESV)

→ Key Insights:

- The Church is not an event I attend; it is a **family** I belong to.
- God places the lonely in families for healing and **formation**.
- Belonging is a gift and a **responsibility**.



4. The Church As A Temple

→ Scripture Reference:

- In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God.
Ephesians 2:21–22 (ESV)

→ Key Insights:

- God's presence **dwells** among His people.
- We are built **together**, not individually detached bricks.
- The Church is a spiritual **home** for the Holy Spirit.

5. Why The Church Matters

→ Scripture Reference:

- And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, the fellowship, the breaking of bread, and the prayers.
Acts 2:42 (ESV)

→ Key Insights:

- Devotion, not convenience, **defines** a disciple.
- Teaching forms. **Fellowship** strengthens. Communion centers. Prayer empowers.
- Discipleship thrives in a consistent community.

6. Serving In The Body

→ Scripture Reference:

- As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another.
1 Peter 4:10 (ESV)

→ Key Insights:

- Every believer is **gifted**.
- Gifts are not for status; they are for **service**.
- Serving is how we **love** one another deeply.

7. Understanding And Articulating Your Place In The Church

Leaders, help group members process and write out their responses. If time allows, discuss it together as a group. If not, include it in their weekly challenge.

→ Identify:

- Where do I belong? (Home Group, Home Team, Rooted)
- Who am I growing with? (Community, accountability)
- What has God given me? (Gifts, personality, passions)
- How can I contribute? (Time, treasure, talent)



→ Key Insight:

- Your place in the church is part of your **purpose** in Christ.

SESSION 9 SUMMARY

- The Church is Christ's body, Christ's **family**, and Christ's dwelling place.
- You weren't saved to stand alone. You were saved to **belong**.



SESSION 10: SERVING, GENEROSITY + LIVING CONNECTED

The Practices Of Biblical Community

1. What The Tithe Is

- Tithing is returning the first 10% of what God has entrusted to us back to Him through the local church.
- Scripture Reference:
 - Bring the full tithe... put me to the test.
Malachi 3:10 (ESV)
- Key Insights:
 - The tithe is an act and principle of **trust, worship, and obedience**.
 - Acknowledgement that everything we have ultimately comes from Him.
 - Invites obedience that unlocks **blessing**.

2. Who The Tithe Is For

- Tithing is for believers who are growing in trusting God with every area of life, including finances.

3. The Mandate Of Generosity

- Scripture Reference:
 - God loves a cheerful giver.
2 Corinthians 9:7 (ESV)
- Key Insights:
 - Generosity reflects the **heart** of God.
 - Giving is an act of **worship**, not an obligation.
 - **Generosity** forms Christ-like character.

4. Living Connected In Biblical Community

- Scripture Reference:
 - Not neglecting to meet together, but encouraging one another.
Hebrews 10:24–25 (ESV)
- Key Insights:
 - Isolation weakens; **connection** strengthens.
 - Encouragement is a spiritual **discipline**.
 - Biblical community is **intentional**, not accidental.



5. The Practice Of Carrying One Another

→ Scripture Reference:

- Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.
- Galatians 6:2 (ESV)

→ Key Insights:

- Community **carries** what individuals can't.
- Bearing burdens fulfills the **heart** of Jesus.
- A healthy church **shares** both weight and joy.

6. Unity, Honor, And Love

→ Scripture Reference:

- Outdo one another in showing honor.
Romans 12:10 (ESV)

→ Key Insights:

- **Honor** is the culture of the Kingdom.
- **Love** displays maturity more than gifting does.
- **Unity** is stewarded, not assumed.

7. Understanding And Practicing Connected Living

Leaders, help group members process and write out their responses. If time allows, discuss it together as a group. If not, include it in their weekly challenge.

→ Identify:

- Where am I consistently present?
- Who am I investing in?
- Who is investing in me?
- Where am I serving?
- What rhythms help me stay connected?

→ Key Insight:

- Community is not a ministry of the church; it **is** the church.

SESSION 10 SUMMARY

- Serving **reflects** Jesus.
- Generosity **imitates** Jesus.
- Community **reveals** Jesus.
- A disciple doesn't walk **alone**. They walk connected, committed, and contributing.



SESSION 11: EVANGELISM + YOUR STORY

The Doctrine Of Gospel Witness

PART 1: EVANGELISM

1. Evangelism Defined

- Evangelism is the Spirit-empowered act of sharing the **good news** of Jesus, His life, death, resurrection, and saving grace, with those who do not yet know Him.
- Scripture Reference:
 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.
Romans 1:16 (ESV)
- Key Insights
 - The gospel doesn't offer power; it **is** power.
 - Evangelism isn't a personality type; it's a **calling**.
 - God **uses** ordinary people to deliver an extraordinary message.

2. Why We Share the Gospel

Because Jesus Commanded It

- Scripture Reference:
 - Go therefore and make disciples.
Matthew 28:19 (ESV)
- Key Insight:
 - Evangelism is not optional; it's **obedience**.

Because Eternity Is Real

- Scripture Reference:
 - It is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment.
Hebrews 9:27 (ESV)
- Key Insight:
 - Without Christ, people face a Christless eternity, which fuels **urgency**.



Because God Uses Us

→ Scripture Reference:

- And how are they to hear without someone preaching?
Romans 10:14–15 (ESV)

→ Key Insight:

- We are God's chosen **messengers** to the people around us.

3. What Evangelism Is Not

→ Evangelism is not:

- **Winning** an argument
- **Forcing** belief
- **Changing** someone's heart (only God can do that)

→ Evangelism **is**:

- Sharing truth in **love**
- **Inviting** people to Jesus
- **Trusting** the Holy Spirit to do the work

PART 2: SHARING YOUR STORY

1. The Power Of Your Story

→ Scripture Reference:

- And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.
Revelation 12:11 (ESV)

→ Key Insights:

- Your story reveals His **grace**.
- People may debate your theology, but they cannot deny your **story**.
- Testimony turns your past into someone else's **hope**.

2. The Framework Of Your Gospel Story

I once was...

→ Your life before Christ

→ Key Insight:

- Your past gives context to His **grace**.

Then I met Jesus when...

→ How God reached you



→ Key Insight:

- God uses people, moments, and His Word to **draw** us.

In that moment, I knew...

→ What you understood about Christ

→ Key Insight:

- Every salvation moment includes **revelation**.

Now I know...

→ What's changed in your identity and life

→ Key Insight:

- Transformation confirms **authenticity**.

3. How To Share Your Story Clearly

→ Keep it:

- Short (2-3 minutes)
- Simple (avoid long details)
- Christ-centered (highlight Him, not you)
- Honest (share real struggles, real grace)

PART 3: PRACTICAL EVANGELISM

Leaders, help group members process and write out their responses. If time allows, discuss it together as a group. If not, include it in their weekly challenge.

1. Who Has God Put In Your World?

→ Make a list of:

- Family
- Coworkers
- Neighbors
- Friends
- People of peace (Luke 10 language)

→ Key Insight:

- You are sent where you **already** are.

2. How To Start Conversations

→ Three easy openers:

- "How can I pray for you?"
- "Has faith ever been part of your story?"
- "Would you ever want to hear my faith journey?"



- Key Insight:
 - Evangelism begins with **questions**, not speeches.

3. The Gospel In One Minute

- A simple framework:
 - God created you.
 - Sin separated you.
 - Jesus rescued you.
 - You can respond today.
- Key Insight:
 - **Clarity** beats complexity.

SESSION 11 SUMMARY

- Evangelism is every believer's **assignment**.
- The gospel is God's **power**, not your performance.
- Your story is a **tool** God uses to reach others.
- People are ready for hope, and Jesus sends **you** to bring it.



SESSION 12: DISCIPLESHIP + MAKING DISCIPLES

The Doctrine Of Spiritual Multiplication

PART 1: DISCIPLESHIP

1. Discipleship Defined

→ Discipleship is the intentional process of helping someone **follow** Jesus, grow in spiritual maturity, and learn to make disciples themselves.

→ Scripture Reference:

- And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Matthew 4:19 (ESV)

→ Key Insights

- Discipleship is following Jesus and helping **others** follow Him.
- Jesus forms us. We follow Him, and He **shapes** us.
- Every disciple is called to **multiply**.

2. Discipleship Is Relational

→ Scripture Reference:

- Entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.
- 2 Timothy 2:2 (ESV)

→ Key Insights:

- Discipleship flows through **relationship**, not curriculum alone.
- We **invest** in people who will invest in others.
- **Multiplication** is the biblical model.

3. Discipleship Requires Intentionality

→ Scripture Reference:

- But exhort one another every day.

Hebrews 3:13 (ESV)

→ Key Insights:

- Growth requires **consistency**.
- Encouragement **fuels** perseverance.
- Discipleship isn't occasional; it's **intentional**.



PART 2: HOW JESUS MADE DISCIPLES

1. Jesus Taught Them

→ Scripture Reference:

- He interpreted to them... all the Scriptures.
Luke 24:27 (ESV)

→ Key Insight:

- Disciples grow through **truth**.

2. Jesus Modeled For Them

→ Scripture Reference:

- I have given you an example that you also should do.
John 13:15 (ESV)

→ Key Insight:

- Disciples follow a **lived** example, not a theory.

3. Jesus Sent Them

→ Scripture Reference:

- And he sent them out to proclaim...
Luke 9:2 (ESV)

→ Key Insight:

- Disciples mature when they participate in **mission**.

PART 3: PRACTICAL DISCIPLESHIP

Leaders, help group members process and write out their responses. If time allows, discuss it together as a group. If not, include it in their weekly challenge.

1. Who Are You Pouring Into?

→ Write out names of:

- Someone new in faith
- Someone hungry for growth
- Someone you can multiply through

→ Key Insight:

- You can't disciple everyone, but you can disciple **someone**.



2. What Do You Teach?

→ Choose a simple framework:

- Connect Together
 - Build meaningful relationships through regularly getting together at church and Community Home Groups.
- Serve Together
 - Engage in your callings side by side on the Home Team.
- Study Together
 - Grow in God's Word through Study Home Groups and Rooted Groups.
- Multiply Together
 - Lead others to become a disciple of Jesus by leading a Home Group or Rooted Group.

→ Key Insight:

- Discipleship is not complicated; it is **consistent**.

3. What Does Success Look Like?

→ Strive to disciple someone who:

- Loves Jesus
- Obeyes Jesus
- Shares Jesus
- Helps someone else do the same

→ Key Insight:

- Multiplication is the **maturity** of discipleship.

SESSION 12 SUMMARY

- Discipleship is the **heartbeat** of the Great Commission.
- It is relational, intentional, and **reproducible**.
- Jesus modeled it, taught it, and **commanded** it.
- Every believer can **disciple** someone.
- **Multiplication**, not attendance, is the measure of success.



NEXT STEPS



Thank you for being a part of Rooted and leaning in to discover what discipleship really looks like. Over these weeks, you've learned how to walk with Jesus daily and root yourself in God's Word and His calling. Here at Home Church, we are passionate about progress. We recognize that we're all at different stages on our journey, and the next step looks different for everyone.

Stay Connected After Completing Rooted:

1. Resubmit The Rooted Spiritual Assessment

→ Resubmit your Rooted Spiritual Assessment to reflect on the growth you've experienced during this Rooted season.

You can access the assessment at:

<https://myhomechurch.live/rootedresources>

2. Take A Next Step

- Dive Deeper into the Mission and Vision by Attending Home Track
- Utilize Your Gifts on the Home Team
- Find Belonging Through Home Groups
- Tithe Challenge

To learn more about each of these next steps, please visit:

<https://myhomechurch.live/connect>

3. Connect With Your Rooted Leader

→ Your Rooted Leader will connect with you one week after Rooted wraps up to see how they can support you in taking a next step.

If you have any questions along the way, our Next Steps team is always here for you at info@myhomechurch.live.

