

Parkway Baptist Church

**Basic Training in
Discipleship**

Mentor Guide

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This is a guide provided by Parkway Baptist Church, Moseley, VA for a mentor to lead a new believer through the basics of Christian discipleship. Most resources related to this guide can be found at ParkwayFamily.org/disciple.

Contact us at 804.639.2236.

Introduction

How do we lead our people to love God with all their heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love their neighbors as themselves? We help them become real disciples of Christ!

This program is intended to equip new believers in Christ to read and study Scripture for themselves, develop spiritual disciplines like daily prayer and Bible reading, understand basic doctrines in the faith, and engage in worship and ministry through Parkway Baptist Church.

Key definitions:

Disciples are followers of Jesus. They have turned from their sin and trusted in Jesus as their Savior. They have died to themselves and surrendered their lives to Him as Lord. Christ now lives in them, transforming everything about them from the inside out.

Discipleship is the Christ-commanded, Spirit-empowered responsibility of every disciple of Jesus to evangelize unbelievers, baptize believers, teach them the Word of Christ, and train them to obey Christ as members of His church who make disciples on mission to all nations.

Disciple making is:

- *An intentional effort.* It is something we pursue and do not simply hope it happens.
- *Best conducted through the local church.* Believers are intended to be the body of Christ, worshipping, communing, serving and on mission together.
- *Highly relational.* It is most effective in a mentoring relationship with a mature believer.
- *A life-long process.* Following Christ is a limitless journey of growth.
- *Leading to multiplication.* Disciples are to make disciples who make disciples.

Disciples are marked by transformation, including:

- *A transformed heart.* Disciples are spiritually regenerate; God has forgiven their sin, and God's Spirit now indwells them. They are new creations who now live as servants of the King and heirs of His kingdom.
- *A transformed mind.* Disciples are biblically grounded; they believe what Jesus says and think more and more like Him.
- *Transformed affections.* Disciples learn to be satisfied in Christ and to desire what Jesus desires.
- *A transformed will.* Disciples are humbly obedient; they do what Jesus commands.
- *Transformed relationships.* Disciples love sacrificially; they serve as Jesus served and continually work toward reconciliation with others in Christ.
- *A transformed purpose.* Disciples are missionally engaged; they make disciples who make disciples of all nations. Jesus has revolutionized their reason for living.

The program:

The Parkway *Basic Training in Discipleship* involves 13 structured sessions of at least one disciple and a same-sex mentor, preferably meeting on a weekly basis. It includes assignments to complete between sessions. **Most materials and resources will be accessible on the Parkway website at www.parkwayfamily.org/disciple.**

Commitments:

For mentors:

- Complete a training session led by the program coordinator.
- Agree to meet with the disciple(s) for at least 13 sessions.
- Take the initiative to schedule each session.
- Prepare in advance by completing the same assignments with the disciple.
- Check in with the disciple between meetings to provide encouragement and accountability.
- Maintain confidentiality with the disciple. Seek permission from the Disciple before sharing personal information with others.
- Report to the program coordinator with any special needs or concerns about the disciple.

For disciples:

- Agree to meet for 13 sessions with the assigned mentor.
- Complete the required assignments between sessions and be ready to discuss what you are learning.
- Maintain confidentiality with the mentor. Seek permission from the Mentor before sharing personal information with others.
- Recognize that this program is a starting place for discipleship, not a finishing school.

Initial meeting

Main purpose: To get acquainted, overview the program, get started in the assignments, and stress that this process is just a starting point for deeper discipleship.

Meeting duration: 1.5 hours

Summary of activities:

- Get acquainted through questions and testimonies.
- Establish confidentiality and commitment to the program.
- Use spiritual assessment questions.
- Determine weekly meeting day, time, and place.
- Introduce the resources.
- Make assignments for the week.
- Pray together.

Goals as you begin:

- Develop a lasting relationship with your disciple.
- Know that this can be an eternal investment, both in the one you seek to mentor as well as for yourself.
- Pray deeply before each session. Seek the guidance and wisdom of the Holy Spirit.
- Resist making the sessions only about “head knowledge.” Learning the basics is important but remember that God is relational and to know Him must also be a matter of the heart.
- Lead your disciple to take real steps of obedience. Transformation comes primarily by doing the will of God.

Get acquainted.

1. Use “FORM” to guide your conversation:
 - a. F - Ask about Family
 - b. O - Ask about Occupation
 - c. R - Ask about Recreation
 - d. M - Ask about Motivation. (Why have you decided to be disciplined?)
2. Take turns sharing testimonies briefly. (Note that you will ask some spiritual assessment questions as part of this session.) **You go first.** Include these things in your testimony:
 - a. How and why did you become a follower of Christ?
 - b. What are some ways Christ has made a difference in your life?
 - c. Why do you want to serve as a mentor?

Establish confidentiality and commitment.

1. Review the Disciple's Commitment form (print two copies) and sign.
2. Both mentor and disciple should keep a copy.

Ask spiritual assessment questions.

Explore these questions about church and spiritual background to gain a better understanding of the disciple.

1. What has been your experience of church in your life?
2. How would you assess your knowledge and understanding of the Bible?
3. How often do you read the Bible?
4. What has been your experience of prayer?

Determine when you will meet.

1. Aim for weekly meetings. Don't worry if you need to miss a week due to vacation, illness, too many commitments, etc.
2. Choose a place. A public location like a coffee shop is great—it could be part of your witness together as people overhear your conversations!
3. Indicate that the usual meeting timeframe is 1 hour. However, if the disciple has more questions or additional time is needed, the time can be extended. (Both need to agree.)
4. Exchange contact information.

Introduce the program resources.

1. Lead the disciple to download the **YouVersion** App.
 - a. Together, find the reading plan, "Bible Project-Luke and Acts" (52 days)
 - b. Choose to read this plan together by selecting "**with friends.**"
 - c. Walk through the first day's reading.
2. **Distribute these books** (Parkway will supply):
 - a. *Christian Beliefs: Twenty Basics Every Christian Should Know*, by Wayne Grudem
 - b. *More than a Carpenter*, by Josh McDowell
3. **Lead the disciple to install the Parkway App** (Subsplash).
 - a. Navigate together to "Watch" and overview the weekly sermon videos. (Note: these will not be assignments.)
 - b. Navigate together to "Connect" and then "This Sunday" for the sermon notes.
4. **Identify the Parkway website:** www.Parkwayfamily.org/disciple.

- a. This page will provide the downloads and links to all content for this program (this Mentor Guide, the Disciple's Guide, the apps, music, and other digital content.)
5. **Music** - Mention that each week there will be an assignment to listen to a Christian song with a message. Why? Napoleon Bonaparte said, "*Give me control over he who shapes the music of a nation, and I care not who makes the laws.*" Music is powerful. Begin to feed your spirit with praise music.
6. **Scripture memory** - Introduce the importance of memorizing Scripture during these 13 weeks together.

Make assignments for the first session :

1. Begin daily Bible reading using the YouVersion app: The book of Luke & Acts.
2. Read a chapter: "What Does It Mean to Become a Christian?" (chapter 13) in *Christian Beliefs: Twenty Basics Every Christian Should Know*, by Grudem.
3. Watch a video: Welcome and Introduction by Pastor Derek (Parkway website).
4. Begin memorizing John 3:16.
5. Write out your testimony. Try to share it with at least one person this week.
6. Listen to "The Doctrine of Salvation" by Pastor Derek (Parkway website).
7. Watch the "3 Circles" gospel presentation (link on Parkway website)
8. Listen to the song, "My Jesus" by Anne Wilson (link on Parkway website).

Close in prayer

Prayer points to consider:

- Thank God for the opportunity to follow Jesus together.
- Ask for the Holy Spirit to guide and teach in every activity and assignment.

Session 1 - What is the gospel?

Main purpose: To confirm that the disciple has truly professed faith in Christ, been baptized, and understands the basic message of the gospel.

Summary of activities:

- Warm-up time
 - Spiritual assessment questions
 - Assignment follow-up
 - Bible study
 - Assignments for the next session
 - Prayer together
-

Warm-up

1. Pray for God's guidance and wisdom in your meeting.
2. Ask: How did you see God at work in your life this week?

Spiritual assessment questions

1. How assured are you that you are headed to heaven when you die?
2. Have you been baptized?
3. What is your understanding of baptism?

Assignment follow-up

1. **Daily Bible Reading:** How did your daily Bible reading go? Any questions about what you read?
2. **Questions to discuss from chapter 13 in the Grudem book:**
 - a. How does someone become a Christian?
 - b. Can you explain what it means to truly believe in Jesus?
 - c. What does it mean to truly repent of sins?
 - d. In what ways can Christians give evidence of their belief in Jesus?
3. **Scripture memory:** How is your Scripture memory going? Can you recite John 3:16?
4. **Review the Doctrine of Salvation video:**
 - a. What does it mean to have assurance of your salvation?
 - b. Do you have any questions concerning this doctrine?
5. **Review the 3 Circles presentation together:**
 - a. 3 Circles is available as an app: "Life on Mission." Use it if you can or draw three empty circles on a paper and ask the Disciple to help you complete the diagram.
 - b. Ask: Can you guide someone through this?

Study the Bible together.

Read John 3:1-21 together and discuss.

1. Why do you think Nicodemus, a respected and influential teacher, came to see Jesus at night?
2. Jesus immediately began to talk about the need for radical change. What does it mean to be “born again”?
3. Have you ever made a New Year’s resolution and given up on it? Why does our spiritual transformation need something more than just our good intentions?
4. What did it mean for God to give His only Son?
5. What does it mean to believe?

Make assignments for the next session:

1. Daily Bible reading: Continue with the book of Luke & Acts.
2. Read chapter 2 in the Grudem book, “What is God like?” (pp 14-33).
3. Read this article (on Parkway website):
 - a. “The Who, What, When, Where, and Why of Baptism.”
4. Finish memorizing John 3:16.
5. Listen to “The Doctrine of God the Father.”
6. Read the Parkway Statement of Faith.
7. Share the Three Circles presentation with a friend or family member. Be ready to report in the next session.
8. Listen to the song: "Love Is Here" by Tenth Avenue North.

Pray together.

After you pray, ask the disciple to pray as well:

1. Thank God for something they have learned so far in the training.
2. Ask God’s help in presenting the 3 Circles to someone.

Confirm the time of the next session.

Session 2 - What is God like?

Main purpose: To help the disciple begin the journey of falling in love with God.

Summary of activities:

- Warm-up time
 - Spiritual assessment questions
 - Assignment follow-up
 - Bible study
 - Assignments for the next session
 - Prayer together
-

Warm-up

1. Pray for God's guidance and wisdom in your meeting.
2. Ask: How did you see God at work in your life this week?

Spiritual assessment questions

1. What was your understanding or impression of God before you became a believer?
2. What does it mean to you to be loved by God?
3. What do you think it means to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind?

Assignment follow-up

1. **Daily Bible Reading:** How did your daily Bible reading go? Any questions about what you read?
2. **Questions to discuss from Chapter 2 in the Grudem book – “What is God Like?”**
 - a. What are some attributes we have in common with God?
 - b. What are some attributes that belong to God alone?
 - c. Name one quality of God's character you would like to imitate more fully in your daily life. Why?
 - d. Which of God's attributes seems most amazing to you? Why?
3. **Discuss these questions about the article, “The Who, What, When, Where, and Why of Baptism.”**
 - a. Why do we call it “believer's baptism”? (Only believers should be baptized. This precludes infant baptism or baptism as a ritual where there is no faith in Christ.)
 - b. Do you have to be baptized to be saved? (No. Baptism does not save us; only faith in Jesus saves us. Baptism is important because it is a public profession of our faith.)
4. **Scripture memory:** How is your Scripture memory going? Can you recite John 3:16?

5. **Review the “The Doctrine of God the Father” video:**
 - a. What are some things that makes God better than any earthly father?
 - b. Do you have any questions concerning this doctrine?
6. **Discuss the Parkway statement of faith:**
 - a. Why is a statement of faith necessary for a church?

Study the Bible together.

Read John 14:6-7 together and discuss:

1. What did Jesus mean when He said that He was the Way?
2. What did Jesus mean: “No one comes to the Father except through me”?
3. Can someone get to heaven apart from Jesus? Can people be good enough to get to heaven on their own?

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-6 and discuss:

1. Why is it important for us to learn that being with God is what makes heaven so special?

Make assignments for the next session:

1. Daily Bible reading: Continue reading the book of Luke & Acts.
2. Read Chapter 1 in the Grudem book, “What is the Bible?” (pp 1–13).
3. Read chapter 6 in *More than a Carpenter* by Josh McDowell, “Are the Bible Records Reliable?” (pp 63–88).
4. Begin memorizing Ephesians 2:8-9.
5. Listen to “The Doctrine of Scripture.”
6. Watch the video, “The Grand Narrative of the Bible.”
7. Read the Baptist Faith and Message.
8. Listen to the song: "Word of God Speak" by MercyMe.

Pray together.

Make it a practice for **both** you and the disciple to pray.

Confirm the time of the next session.

Session 3 - What is the Bible?

Main purpose: To help the disciple learn to see the Bible as trustworthy and authoritative over all of life.

Summary of activities:

- Warm-up time
 - Spiritual assessment questions
 - Assignment follow-up
 - Bible study
 - Assignments for the next session
 - Prayer together
-

Warm-up

1. Pray for God's guidance and wisdom in your meeting.
2. Ask: How did you see God at work in your life this week?

Spiritual assessment questions

1. In your past, what guided your decision-making?
2. Who do you look to the most for advice and wisdom?

Assignment follow-up

1. **Daily Bible Reading:** How did your daily Bible reading go? Any questions about what you read?
2. **Questions to discuss from Chapter 1 in the Grudem book:**
 - a. Why is it important that the Bible be the basis for our beliefs?
 - b. Will the Bible definitively answer every question we bring to it? Why or why not?
 - c. What is one issue on which the Bible speaks clearly?
 - d. What is one issue on which the Bible does not speak clearly?
 - e. Why should we focus more on issues the Bible addresses?
3. **Questions to discuss from Chapter 6 in the McDowell book:**
 - a. What is the "Bibliographical Test"?
 - b. How does the manuscript authority of the New Testament compare to other ancient works?
 - c. What common misconception about the differences in biblical manuscripts does the text address?
4. **Scripture memory:** How is your Scripture memory going? Can you recite Ephesians 2:8-9?

5. **Review the “The Doctrine of Scripture” video:**
 - a. Why is it important that the Bible, as given by God, be utterly reliable?
 - b. Do you have any questions concerning this doctrine?
6. **Review “The Grand Narrative of the Bible” video:**
 - a. How would you explain the fact that the Bible is made of 66 books and yet it is one story?
 - b. Why is the Bible a miraculous book?
7. **Briefly review the Baptist Faith and Message:**
 - a. Explain that this is a more detailed explanation of beliefs that we at Parkway along with many other Southern Baptist churches affirm. Notice all the references to Scripture! This confession of faith is mainly a paraphrasing of key verses.
 - b. You can learn more about the BFM at <https://bfm.sbc.net>.

Study the Bible together.

Read **2 Timothy 3:16-17** together and discuss:

1. What makes the Bible different from any other book? What does it mean that Scripture is "breathed out by God"?
2. The text mentions four uses: teaching, reproof (rebuking), correction, and training in righteousness. Can you share an example of how Scripture has done one of these in your life recently?
3. What does it mean for a believer to be "equipped for every good work"?

Make assignments for the next session:

1. Daily Bible reading: The book of Luke & Acts.
2. Read the following articles:
 - a. “Bible Study tips”
 - b. “Bible Translation Types”
 - c. “Introduction to a Bible Commentary”
3. Read Chapter 1, “What is the Bible?” in the Grudem book (pp 63-88).
4. Finish memorizing Ephesians 2:8-9.
5. Listen to Essential Doctrines, “God’s Purpose of Grace.”
6. Listen to the song, “I Believe” by Wes King.

Pray together.

Make it a practice for **both** you and the disciple to pray.

Confirm the time of the next session.

Session 4 - How do I study the Bible?

Main purpose: To help the disciple see the need to learn how to read and understand the Bible correctly.

Summary of activities:

- Warm-up time
 - Spiritual assessment questions
 - Assignment follow-up
 - Bible study
 - Assignments for the next session
 - Prayer together
-

Warm-up

1. Pray for God's guidance and wisdom in your meeting.
2. Ask: How did you see God at work in your life this week?

Spiritual assessment questions

1. How comfortable are you in finding your way around the Bible?
2. Is it a struggle for you to read the Bible?

Assignment follow-up

1. **Daily Bible Reading:** How did your daily Bible reading go? Any questions about what you read?
2. **Discuss these questions about the assigned articles:**
 - a. "Bible Study Tips"
 - i. Discuss hermeneutics (the study of how we understand, interpret, and apply the meaning of the Bible.)
 - ii. What is a bad example of interpreting the Bible wrongly? (Examples: Taking a verse out of context, failing to recognize symbolic language, and ignoring the original setting and audience.)
 - b. "Bible Translation Types"
 - i. Discuss: The Bible we have today has been translated from the ancient languages of Greek and Hebrew (and some Aramaic).
 - ii. Do you have a preference yet for a particular translation?
 - c. "Introduction to a Bible Commentary"
 - i. Discuss how commentaries can be a helpful resource to Bible study.
3. **Scripture memory:** How is your Scripture memory going? Can you recite Ephesians 2:8-9?

4. **Review the Essential Doctrines video, “God’s Purpose of Grace”:**
 - a. Discuss the fact that the Bible teaches two seemingly contradictory truths: (1) God chooses in advance who He wishes to save, and (2) people must choose to put their faith in Christ to be saved. Both are true even if it is a paradox!
 - b. Discuss this question: “When you sin as a Christian, will that ruin your salvation?” (*God does not stop loving us even when we fail Him. He is committed to keeping us to the end.*)

Study the Bible together.

Read **Psalm 119:1-8** together and discuss:

1. What does “blessed” mean? How does the Bible’s definition differ from the world's concept of happiness?
2. What does it mean to seek God "with all your heart" rather than half-heartedly?
3. Why is it necessary to ask God for help as we seek to obey Him?
4. How does knowing God's Word prevent you from feeling ashamed or losing confidence in the face of challenges?

Make assignments for the next session:

1. Daily Bible reading: The book of Luke & Acts.
2. Watch:
 - a. “Project Bible Old Testament Overview” video
 - b. “Project Bible New Testament Overview” video
3. Read the following articles:
 - a. “Old Testament Structure”
 - b. “New Testament Structure”
 - c. “How to Have a Meaningful Devotional Time with God”
4. Start memorizing 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
5. Listen to the song, "By your side" by Tenth Avenue North.

Pray together.

Confirm the time of the next session.

Session 5 - What are the Old and New Testaments?

Main purpose: To help the disciple to get an overview of the entire Bible and see that how it all points to Jesus Christ as the true hero.

Summary of activities:

- Warm-up time
 - Assignment follow-up
 - Bible study
 - Assignments for next week
 - Prayer together
-

Warm-up

1. Pray for God's guidance and wisdom in your meeting.
2. Ask: How did you see God at work in your life this week?

Assignment follow-up

1. **Daily Bible reading:** How did your daily Bible reading go? Any questions about what you read?
2. **Review the Bible Project videos:**
 - a. **"Old Testament Overview"**
 - i. How would you respond to someone who says the Old Testament is just a random collection of various writings?
 - ii. Why would God give us a Bible that can be so simple and yet so complex?
 - iii. How does the Old Testament prepare us to meet Jesus in the New Testament?
 - b. **"New Testament Overview"**
 - i. How does the New Testament continue the story of the Old Testament?
 - ii. Why is it important to read from the Old Testament so you can learn from the New Testament?
3. **Discuss these questions about the assigned articles:**
 - a. **"Old Testament Structure"**
 - i. What are the three main divisions of the Old Testament?
 - ii. What does the word "covenant" mean?
 - iii. What is the story line of the Bible?

- iv. Why is the Old Testament considered as "preparation for the gospel"?
- b. "New Testament Structure":
 - i. What are the three main divisions of the New Testament?
 - ii. Discuss the story line: Creation, Rebellion, Atonement, and Restoration.
- c. "How to Have a Meaningful Devotional Time with God"
 - i. Why would it be important to set aside time each day to spend in Bible reading, prayer, and listening to God?
- d. Are you able to do this well? What are your challenges?
- 4. **Scripture memory:** How is your Scripture memory going? Can you recite 2 Timothy 3:16-17?

Study the Bible together.

Read Joshua 1:1-9 together and discuss:

1. Why would Joshua need the encouragement to be strong and courageous?
2. Why is it important to know that the Lord is a promise keeper?
3. Why is obedience necessary to experience the Lord's blessings?
4. Why is it important to know what God has commanded?

Make assignments for the next session:

1. Daily Bible reading: The book of Luke & Acts.
2. Read the following articles:
 - a. "A Transformed Heart"
 - b. "Transformed Affections"
 - c. "The Transformed Mind"
 - d. "How to Pray"
3. Finish memorizing 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
4. Listen to "The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit."
5. Listen to the song, "I'm Not Who I Was" by Brandon Heath.

Pray together.

Confirm the time of the next session.

Session 6 - Who is the Holy Spirit?

Main purpose: To introduce the disciple to the identity, purpose, and work of the Holy Spirit.

Summary of Activities:

- Warm-up time
 - Assignment follow-up
 - Bible study
 - Assignments for the next session
 - Prayer together
-

Warm-up

1. Pray for God's guidance and wisdom in your meeting.
2. Ask: How did you see God at work in your life this week?

Assignment follow-up

1. **Daily Bible Reading:** How did your daily Bible reading go? Any questions about what you read?
2. **Discuss these questions about the assigned articles:**
 - a. "The Transformed Heart"
 - i. Why is it important that God starts our transformation with our heart?
 - ii. What does this look like in reality?
 - iii. A disciple has a new life. What does this mean?
 - iv. How have you seen the Lord change your heart?
 - b. "Transformed Affections"
 - i. How is the Lord changing your interests and loves?
 - ii. Why do you think this matters?
 - c. "The Transformed Mind"
 - i. How does God go about changing your mind?
 - ii. In what way is the Lord changing your perspectives?
 - iii. How often do you think about spiritual things?
 - d. "How to Pray"
 - i. Discuss a simple approach to prayer, such as:
-PRAY: P-Praise God. R-Repent. A-Ask. Y-Yield.
-ACTS: A-Adoration. C-Confession. T-Thanksgiving. S-Supplication.
 - ii. Later in the prayer time today, pray through a Scripture. (Suggestions are given below.)
3. **Review the "The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit" video:**

- a. Why is it important to understand that the Holy Spirit is a Person—the Spirit of Christ—and not a force? (*The Spirit is the constant presence of the Lord in and with us.*)
 - b. What does it mean to grieve the Holy Spirit? (*This is when we ignore His prompts and guidance, or we disobey what we know is the right thing to do.*)
4. **Scripture memory:** Can you recite 2 Timothy 3:16-17?

Study the Bible together.

Read John 14:16-21 together and discuss:

1. How does it help you to know that God is not “up there somewhere” but right here beside you and even in you?
2. What is encouraging about the fact that Jesus calls the Spirit “the Comforter” or “the Helper”?
3. Why is it so important to obey Jesus’ commandments?
4. Emphasize that the Holy Spirit is the presence of Jesus with us now, and He has the same priorities (such as our obedience) with Jesus.

Make assignments for the next session:

1. Daily Bible reading: The book of Luke & Acts.
2. Read Chapter 17, “What is the Church?” in the Grudem book.
3. Read these articles:
 - a. “The Lord’s Supper”
 - b. “Nine Biblical Functions of the Church”
 - c. “Why Church Membership?”
 - d. “A Transformed Will”
4. Finish memorizing Romans 6:23.
5. Listen to “The Doctrine of the Church.”
6. Listen to the song, “Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)” by Chris Tomlin.

Pray together.

Return to John 14:16-21 and pray over these points:

- Thank God for sending us His Spirit so we would not be on our own.
- Ask for greater awareness when the Spirit is speaking to you.

Confirm the time of the next session.

Session 7 - What is the church?

Main purpose: To help the disciple see the importance and value of being a vital part of the church.

Summary of Activities:

- Warm-up time
 - Assignment follow-up
 - Bible study
 - Assignments for the next session
 - Prayer together
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Warm-up

1. Pray for God's guidance and wisdom in your meeting.
2. Ask: How did you see God at work in your life this week?

Assignment follow-up

1. **Daily Bible Reading:** How did your daily Bible reading go? Any questions about what you read?
2. **Discuss these questions from "What Is the Church?" in the Grudem book:**
 - a. How is a church congregation different from a group Bible study or people gathered at a Christian retreat? (*The church alone has been given all the responsibilities and privileges of baptizing, observing the Lord's Supper, and serving as the Body of Christ.*)
 - b. Why should Christians become members of a church?
 - c. What are some dangers of not becoming a member of a church?
3. **Discuss these questions about the assigned articles:**
 - a. **"The Lord's Supper"**
 - i. What is the Lord's Supper?
 - ii. Why do we partake of it on a regular basis?
 - b. **"Nine Biblical Functions of the Church"**
 - i. Review the nine (9) functions of the local church: baptism, teaching the Word, worship, disciple making, prayer, care & fellowship, the Lord's supper, sacrificial giving & serving, biblical leadership.
 - ii. How do you see some or all of these functions carried out in our church?
 - c. **"The Transformed Will"**
 - i. What progress do you see in your life in the desire to obey the Lord?

- ii. What command or instruction in Scripture is most difficult for you to obey right now?
4. **Review the “The Doctrine of the Church” video:**
 - a. Discuss the statement, “The church is like an embassy in a foreign land, and we are ambassadors for Christ.”
 - b. Why do we insist that the church is not a building?
5. **Scripture memory:** How is your Scripture memory going? Can you recite Romans 6:23?

Study the Bible together.

Read Hebrews 10:23-25 together and discuss:

1. What is our “confession of hope”? How do we keep it "without wavering"?
2. What does it mean to "stimulate" or "provoke" one another toward love and good deeds?
3. Why is regular, consistent meeting together with believers crucial for a healthy spiritual life?
4. How does it change your attitude and perspective to come to church to **encourage others** rather than just to be served?

Make assignments for the next session:

1. Daily Bible reading: If the Disciple has completed the reading plan of Luke and Acts, assign “Genesis: God’s Redemption Story” in the *YouVersion* Bible app.
2. Read these articles:
 - a. “My Identity in Christ”
 - b. “Transformed Relationships”
3. Finish memorizing Romans 6:23.
4. Listen to Essential Doctrines, “The Doctrine of the Man.”
5. Listen to the song, “Who Am I?” by Casting Crowns.
6. OPTIONAL: Watch the movie – “Overcomer” by Kendrick Brothers.

Pray together.

Confirm the time of the next session.

Session 8 - What is my identity in Christ?

Main purpose: To lead the disciple to understand that he or she has become a new person in Christ and must learn from Christ what this means.

Summary of Activities:

- Warm-up time
 - Assignment follow-up
 - Bible study
 - Assignments for the next session
 - Prayer together
-

Warm-up

1. Pray for God's guidance and wisdom in your meeting.
2. Ask: How did you see God at work in your life this week?

Assignment follow-up

1. **Daily Bible reading:** How did your daily Bible reading go? Any questions about what you read?
2. **Discuss these questions about the assigned articles:**
 - a. **"My Identity in Christ"** (find this on the website)
 - i. Have the disciple choose at least one of the statements and explain how it speaks to their new identity in Christ.
 - b. **"Transformed Relationships"**
 - i. How is the Lord changing your relationships with family, relatives, your circle of friends, etc.?
 - ii. Is there a broken relationship in your life for which we can pray for reconciliation? (*Be sure to address this in your prayer time.*)
3. **Review the "The Doctrine of Man" video:**
 - a. A very important reason for us to study the Bible is that it tells us who we really are. Why is it important for us to understand that we have been **made in the image of God**?
 - b. What does the Bible tell us is humanity's biggest problem? (*Hint: It's not poverty, wars, bad leaders, or environmental disasters.*)
 - c. What is the solution to our biggest problem? (*We need a complete spiritual makeover, a change that only Jesus can accomplish in us. We need to be restored to a right relationship with God.*)
4. **Scripture memory:** How is your Scripture memory going? Can you recite Romans 6:23?

Study the Bible together.

Read 2 Corinthians 5 together and discuss:

1. Why is it important for us to see our bodies as an "earthly tent" and this world as not our final destination?
2. How does the promise of a perfect body and a permanent home with God (v. 2-4) provide hope during struggles?
3. Since we must appear before the "judgment seat of Christ," how should that influence our daily actions and motivations?
4. What does it mean to be a "new creation"? In what ways have you changed since you came to Christ?
5. What does it mean to be an ambassador for Christ?

Make assignments for the next session:

1. Daily Bible reading: The book of Genesis.
2. Read these articles:
 - a. "A Transformed Purpose"
 - b. "Spiritual Warfare"
3. Begin memorizing Romans 15:15-17.
4. Listen to Essential Doctrines, "The Doctrine of the Kingdom."
5. Listen to the song, "Even I" by Mercy Me.
6. Optional: Watch the movie, "War Room" by the Kendrick brothers.

Pray together.

If the Disciple has shared about a broken relationship, please pray together for God to bring healing and reconciliation.

Confirm the time of the next session.

Session 9 - What is spiritual warfare?

Main purpose: To prepare the disciple to recognize and be prepared to face temptation and opposition in their walk with Christ.

Summary of Activities:

- Warm-up time
 - Assignment follow-up
 - Bible study
 - Assignments for the next session
 - Prayer together
-

Warm-up

1. Pray for God's guidance and wisdom in your meeting.
2. Ask: How did you see God at work in your life this week?

Assignment follow-up

1. **Daily Bible reading:** How did your daily Bible reading go? Any questions about what you read?
2. **Discuss these questions about the assigned articles:**
 - a. **"A Transformed Purpose"**
 - i. As followers of Christ, what is our greater purpose beyond our own welfare? (Why is your purpose more than being saved and getting to heaven?)
 - ii. Our church prioritizes missions and planting new churches. Why do you think that is so?
 - b. **"Spiritual Warfare"**
 - i. Did it surprise you to learn how much the Bible speaks about an enemy of our souls?
 - ii. Why should we be wary of the enemy but not afraid? (*"Greater is He that is in us than he that is the world."* Satan cannot separate us from God.)
3. **Review the "The Doctrine of the Kingdom" video:**
 - a. **The Kingdom of God means that Jesus is King.** We are asked to live for Jesus who is Lord of all in an age when He doesn't seem to be Lord at all! How do we know that Jesus really is in charge? (*God has already given us much evidence that He is at work. His Word remains vital and relevant. Our vision of God and what He is doing can be so limited.*)

- b. **The Kingdom of God is a way of living.** What differences have you seen in the behavior and attitudes of worldly people versus the true followers of Christ?
 - c. **The Kingdom of God is a vision for your life.** What have you learned already about how God wants to work through your life?
4. **Scripture memory:** How is your Scripture memory going? Can you recite Romans 15:5-7?

Study the Bible together.

Read **Ephesians 6:10-18** together and discuss it.

1. Paul uses the analogy of “putting on the armor of God.” Why?
2. Why is it important to remember that our struggle is not against “flesh and blood”?
3. *Helmet of Salvation*- Why is assurance of your salvation important?
4. *Breastplate of Righteousness* - Why is it crucial to know this is Christ's righteousness rather than our own?
5. *Shield of Faith* - What might be some “flaming darts” that you experience, and how does faith extinguish them?
6. *Belt of Truth* - How does living in truth protect us against the schemes of the enemy?
7. *Shoes of the gospel of peace* - How does being prepared to share the gospel add meaning and purpose in your daily life?
8. *Sword of the Spirit* - Can you share a time when a specific Scripture helped you in a struggle or difficult situation?

Make assignments for the next session.

1. Daily Bible reading: The book of Genesis.
2. Read chapters 2, 3, and 4 in the McDowell book: “What Makes Jesus so Different?” (pp 9-26), “Lord, Liar or Lunatic?” (pp 27-40), and “What about Science?” (pp 41-44)
3. Read this article (on Parkway website):
 - a. “The Christian Apologetic”
4. Continue memorizing Romans 15:15-17.
5. Listen to the song, “The Battle Belongs to You” by Phil Wickham.
6. OPTIONAL: Watch “Expository Apologetics” by Voddie Baucham.

Pray together.

Confirm the time of the next session.

Session 10 - How do I defend my faith?

Main purpose: To equip the disciple with evidences for the Christian faith and reasons that explain why following Jesus is not blind faith.

Summary of Activities:

- Warm-up time
 - Spiritual assessment questions
 - Assignment follow-up
 - Bible study
 - Assignments for the next session
 - Prayer together
-

Warm-up

1. Pray for God's guidance and wisdom in your meeting.
2. Ask: How did you see God at work in your life this week?

Assignment follow-up

1. **Daily Bible reading:** How did your daily Bible reading go? Any questions about what you read?
2. **Discuss these questions about the chapters in the McDowell book:**
 - a. What evidence is there that Jesus claimed to be God?
 - b. What are the implications of this claim?
 - c. What does it mean to say that Jesus must either be Lord, a liar, or a lunatic? How does this force us to decide about Jesus?
 - d. Why can't Jesus just be seen as a moral teacher?
 - e. What are some truths that cannot be proved scientifically?
 - f. What is the difference between scientific proof and legal-historical proof?
3. **Discuss these questions about the assigned article, "The Christian Apologetic":**
 - a. In terms of the test for truth, how is the Bible different from the Quran?
 - b. What are the four big questions any religion or faith must address? (*Where did I come from? What is my purpose in life? How do I determine what is good? What happens to me after I die?*)
 - c. How does Christianity address these?
4. **Scripture memory:** How is your Scripture memory going? Can you recite Romans 15:5-7?

Study the Bible together.

Read John 10:22-39 together and discuss:

1. Jesus said, "I and the Father are one" and made the listeners so angry that they picked up stones? Why did they view this statement as blasphemy?
2. Elsewhere Jesus said, "If you have seen Me, you've seen the Father" (John 14:9). How does this help us to know God?
3. Jesus pointed to His actions as evidence to back up His claims of divine identity. What were some of the works He did?
4. How does this passage illustrate the theological concept that Jesus is fully God and fully man? Why is this crucial for Christian belief?
5. Jesus spoke to people who knew the Scriptures and saw the evidence of His works yet refused to believe the truth. What do you think was their real reason for rejecting Jesus?

Make assignments the next session:

1. Daily Bible reading: The book of Genesis.
2. View video: "What Is a Biblical Worldview?"
3. View video: "Don't Waste Your Life" by John Piper.
4. Read these articles (on Parkway website):
 - a. "Introduction to Parkway Ministries"
 - b. "Cheerful Giving"
 - c. "The Parkway Mission Statement" (Please memorize this.)
5. Take a spiritual gifts survey (download from the Parkway website.)
 - a. This is an 80-item inventory from Lifeway that you can complete in about 30 minutes and score for yourself.
 - b. Please bring your completed survey ready to share with your mentor.
6. Finish memorizing Romans 15:15-17.
7. Listen to the song, "Give Me Your Eyes" by Brandon Heath.

Pray together.

Confirm the day and time of the next session.

Session 11 - What is good stewardship?

Main purpose: To help the disciple understand the Christian responsibility to manage time, talents, and resources for the good of God's kingdom.

Summary of Activities:

- Warm-up time
 - Assignment follow-up
 - Bible study
 - Assignments for the next session
 - Prayer together
-

Warm-up

1. Pray for God's guidance and wisdom in your meeting.
2. Ask: How did you see God at work in your life this week?

Assignment follow-up

1. **Daily Bible reading:** How did your daily Bible reading go? Any questions about what you read?
2. **Discuss these questions about the Biblical Worldview video:**
 - a. What did you learn in this video?
3. **Discuss these questions about the "Don't Waste Your Life" video:**
 - a. How were you challenged by this message?
4. **Discuss these questions about the assigned articles:**
 - a. **"Introduction to Parkway Ministries"**
 - i. Did you discover anything new about Parkway's ministries?
 - ii. Are you involved in a ministry at this point? If not, is there a ministry you would like to consider?
 - b. **"Cheerful Giving"**
 - c. **"The Parkway Mission Statement"**
 - i. Can you recite our mission statement? (*Real people walking with Christ, inviting others, and serving together to reach our neighbors and nations with the gospel of Jesus Christ.*)
5. **Discuss the Spiritual Gifts Survey:**
 - a. What were your results?
 - b. How did this survey help you?
 - c. Do you see a way to use your gifts to serve in the church?

Study the Bible together.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:3-31 together and discuss:

1. How does Paul's analogy of the body challenge the idea that people can follow Christ without being part of the church? (*No single person has all the gifts. We need each other to grow and serve and learn how to love.*)
2. Why is the confession, "Jesus is Lord," (v. 3) so important to the way we understand and using our spiritual gifts? (*Our gifts are to serve Him and His body—the church, not ourselves. Serving Jesus puts us on the same page together.*)
3. What is the "common good" (v. 7) that the gifts are supposed to achieve, and how do we ensure our gifts are used for that rather than personal recognition?
4. Why does God not give everyone the same gift?
5. Which part of the body (eye, hand, ear, etc.) do you relate to most right now, and why?
6. Why is it important for us to not undervalue the spiritual gifts that are less noticeable and likely to be deemed as less honorable (v. 23)? In other words, what do you say to someone who says, "I can't preach or teach, so I guess I'm not that valuable"?

Next steps assignments for session 13.

1. Daily Bible reading: The book of Genesis.
2. Consider a small group at Parkway to join.
3. Read this article (on Parkway website):
 - a. "Becoming a Disciple Maker"
4. Review all your Scripture memory verses.
5. Listen to the song, "Going Through the Motions" by Matthew West.

Pray together.

Confirm the day and time of the next session.

Session 12 - What's next?

Main purpose: To help the disciple consider specific actions to take to keep growing in faith, especially the commitment to disciple someone else.

Summary of Activities:

- Warm-up time
 - Assignment follow-up
 - Bible study
 - Next steps for the future
 - Prayer together
-

Warm-up

1. Pray for God's guidance and wisdom in your meeting.
2. Ask: How did you see God at work in your life this week?

Assignment follow-up

1. **Daily Bible reading:** How did your daily Bible reading go? Any questions about what you read?
2. **Memory Work:**
 - a. Can you recite all the memory verses?
 - b. Can you recite the Parkway Mission Statement?
3. **Discuss these questions about the assigned article: "Becoming a Disciple-maker."**
 - a. Why is it important and helpful for you to disciple someone else?
 - b. What are the qualifications of a disciple-maker?
 - c. What, if any, are your concerns about being a disciple-maker?
 - d. Do you know someone who needs to be disciplined?

Study the Bible together.

Read **Matthew 28:18-20** together and discuss:

1. Since Jesus has "all authority" in heaven and on earth, how does this give you confidence in sharing your faith and helping others to follow Him?
2. How does "making disciples" differ from just getting "converts"?
3. Why is "going" included in this commission?
4. Why is it important that we teach people to obey all that Jesus commanded?
5. Why is baptism important for the believer, and why is it included in this commission?

Discuss possible next steps in discipleship.

1. What Bible reading plan will you pursue next?
2. Commit to daily prayer.
3. Who is someone who is lost and can “be your one” that you pray for daily and seek to engage with the gospel?
4. Would you become a mentor in Parkway’s Discipleship Program?
5. Consider reading *Discipleship Essentials* by Greg Ogden
6. For a more robust study of the New Testament and learning more about practical ways to follow Christ, consider “*Deepen Discipleship*,” available as a free 6-month online course from the International Mission Board.

Pray together.

