

PARKWAY
BAPTIST CHURCH

**Basic Training in
Discipleship**

Mentor & Disciple 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.

Questions? Contact us at 804.639.2236.

Introduction

How do we learn to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbors as themselves? We do so by becoming real disciples of Christ! This program is intended to equip new and untrained 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. Fulfilling the Great Commission of Matthew 28:18-20 begins here.

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.
- **A matter of multiplication.** Disciples are to make disciples who make disciples.

Disciples are marked by transformation, including:

- **A transformed heart.** Disciples are spiritually alive; God has taken away a hard, stubborn spirit and replaced it with a responsive, tender spirit that is alive to God.
- **A transformed mind.** Disciples are biblically grounded; they believe what Jesus says and think increasingly 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 an orientation and 12 structured sessions of at least one disciple with a same-sex mentor (pairs or triads), preferably meeting on a weekly basis. It includes assignments between sessions. **Most resources will be accessible on the Parkway website at www.parkwayfamily.org/disciple.**

The Disciple's Commitment

I agree to participate in the Basic Training in Discipleship and commit myself to the following standards:

1. Meet regularly with my mentor.

- a. Meetings will be typically 1 to 1.5 hours on a weekly basis.
- b. This involves an initial get-acquainted meeting and twelve (12) sessions.
- c. Meetings will be at times and places that you choose with your mentor.

2. Complete each session's assignments prior to the scheduled meeting.

These assignments will help you gain knowledge and understanding as well as help you develop good spiritual habits. They will include:

- a. Daily Bible reading (10-20 minutes each day)
- b. Assigned reading and videos (1-2 hours per week)
- c. Memorizing Bible verses (approximately 20 minutes per week)

3. Recognize this program is a starting place in my discipleship.

Like a boot camp, it is intended for you to gain basic skills and knowledge so you can take more responsibility with God in your spiritual growth and obedience.

4. Engage honestly and in confidentiality with my mentor.

This is a relationship as much as it is a program and will involve vulnerability, integrity, and accountability for both you and your mentor.

- a. Expect your mentor to not share your story with others without your permission. Do the same for your mentor.
- b. Understand that any information you share with your mentor that could involve harm to yourself or others cannot be considered confidential.

5. Give sincere consideration after this program to continue the discipleship effort of Parkway by mentoring someone else.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Initial meeting

Main purpose: To get acquainted, discuss the program, and get started in the assignments. Remember, this program is just a starting point for a lifetime of discipleship!

Meeting duration: 1.5 hours

Get acquainted.

1. Share about your family, work, hobbies, and most importantly, about your desire to be a disciple of Christ.

Agree to the *Disciple's Commitment*.

1. Review together the *Disciple's Commitment* form (page 3) and sign.

Explore the spiritual assessment questions.

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 and where to 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. The usual meeting timeframe is 1 to 1.5 hours, but you may decide together to extend this as you wish.
4. Exchange contact information.

Explore the program resources.

1. **The YouVersion Bible App.** This will be the platform for daily Bible reading. Download it now on your phone.
 - a. Find the plan, "Bible Project-Luke and Acts" (A 52 days plan.)
 - b. Choose to read this plan together by selecting "**with friends.**"
2. **Books to read** (Parkway will supply):
 - a. Christian Beliefs: Twenty Basics Every Christian Should Know, by Wayne Grudem

- b. More than a Carpenter, by Josh McDowell
3. **The Basic Training in Discipleship webpage:** www.Parkwayfamily.org/disciple.
This page will provide all the downloads and links for the content of this program.
4. **Scripture memory:** There will be several Bible verses as well as the Parkway mission statement for you to memorize over the 12 sessions.
5. **The Parkway App** (Subsplash). Navigate to “Watch” and check out the weekly sermon videos. (Note: these will not be assignments.)
6. **Music:** Each session’s assignments will feature a Christian song to enjoy.

Preview assignments for the first session.

All your assignments (with links) are available at www.Parkwayfamily.org/disciple.

1. Begin daily Bible reading and commenting using the YouVersion Bible app. Use the plan, “Bible Project-The Book of Luke & Acts.”
2. Watch the welcome and introduction video by Pastor Derek (on the web page given above)
3. Read the chapters: “Isn’t There Some Other Way?” and “He Changed My Life” in More Than a Carpenter by McDowell (chapters 11 and 12 in 2024 edition).
4. Using the “My Christian Testimony” worksheet on the web page, write out your testimony. Try to share it with at least one person this week.
5. Listen to “The Doctrine of Salvation” by Pastor Derek (on the web page).
6. Begin memorizing John 3:16.
7. Listen to the song, “My Jesus” by Anne Wilson. (Links are on the web page).

Pray together.

Session 1 - What is the gospel?

Main purpose: To discern whether you have truly professed faith in Christ, been baptized as a believer, and understand the basic message of the gospel.

Warm-up.

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

Explore the 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?

Discuss the assignments.

1. **Daily Bible Reading:** How did your daily Bible reading go? Any questions about what you read?
2. **Questions to discuss from chapters 11 & 12 in More Than a Carpenter (McDowell):**
 - a. If someone asked you today, "What makes Christianity different from every other religion?" how would you answer based on what you read?
 - b. McDowell shares his raw personal testimony, including his struggles with hatred toward his alcoholic father. How did Jesus's love change his ability to forgive?
3. **Share your responses from the "My Christian Testimony" worksheet.**
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. **Scripture memory:** How is your Scripture memory going? Can you recite John 3:16?

Study the Bible together.

Read John 3:16-21 together and discuss.

1. What does the phrase "He gave His only Son" teach us about the nature and cost of true love?
2. The world was already under judgment before Jesus came. How does it comfort you to see Him as our rescuer, not our judge?
3. Why do people prefer the "darkness" over light?

4. Why is belief in Jesus essential?

Preview assignments for the next session.

1. Daily Bible reading: Continue with the book of Luke & Acts.
2. Read chapter 2 in Christian Beliefs (Grudem), "What Is God Like?"
3. Listen to "The Doctrine of God the Father."
4. Carefully read the "Parkway Statement of Faith."
5. Finish memorizing John 3:16.
6. Listen to the song, "Love Is Here" by Tenth Avenue North.

Pray together.

1. Thank God for something you have learned so far in the training.
2. Ask for God's help in presenting your testimony to someone you know.

Confirm the time of the next session.

Session 2 - What is God like?

Main purpose: To help you begin the journey of loving God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Warm-up.

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

Explore the 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, mind, and strength?

Discuss the assignments.

1. **Daily Bible Reading:** How did your daily Bible reading go? Any questions about what you read?
2. **Questions to discuss from the chapter, "What is God Like?" in Christian Beliefs:**
 - 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. **Review the "The Doctrine of God the Father" video:**
 - a. What are some things that make God better than any earthly father?
 - b. Do you have any questions concerning this doctrine?
4. **Discuss the "Parkway Statement of Faith":**
 - a. Why is a statement of faith necessary for a church?
5. **Scripture memory:** How is your Scripture memory going? Can you recite John 3:16?

Study the Bible together.

1. **Read Deuteronomy 6:4-6 and discuss:**
 - a. What do you think it means to love God?
2. **Read John 14:6-7 together and discuss:**

- a. What did Jesus mean when He said that He was the Way?
- b. What did Jesus mean when He said: "No one comes to the Father except through me"?
- c. Can someone get to heaven apart from Jesus? Can people be good enough to get to heaven on their own?

Preview the assignments for the next session.

1. Daily Bible reading: Continue reading the book of Luke & Acts.
2. Read the chapter, "What is the Bible?" in Christian Beliefs (Grudem).
3. Read the chapter, "Are the Bible Records Reliable?" in More than a Carpenter (McDowell).
4. Listen to "The Doctrine of Scripture."
5. Watch the video, "Intro to the Bible: The Grand Narrative."
6. Start memorizing Ephesians 2:8-9.
7. Listen to the song, "Word of God Speak" by MercyMe.
8. OPTIONAL: Listen to the song, "I'm Not Who I Was" by Brandon Heath.

Pray together.

We encourage both the mentor and disciple to pray.

Confirm the time of the next session.

Session 3 - What is the Bible?

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

Warm-up.

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

Explore the spiritual assessment questions.

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

Discuss the assignments.

1. **Daily Bible Reading:** How did your daily Bible reading go? Any questions about what you read?
2. **Questions to discuss from "What Is the Bible?" in Christian Beliefs:**
 - 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. Why should we focus more on issues the Bible addresses rather than ones it does not?
3. **Questions to discuss from "Are the Bible Records Reliable?" in More Than a Carpenter (McDowell):**
 - 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. **Review the "The Doctrine of Scripture" video:**
 - a. Why is it important that the Bible, as given by God, be utterly reliable?
5. **Review the "Intro to the Bible: The Grand Narrative" 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?
6. **Scripture memory:** Can you recite Ephesians 2:8-9?

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"?

Preview the assignments for the next session.

1. Daily Bible reading: The book of Luke & Acts.
2. Read the following articles:
 - a. "Bible Study tips"
 - b. "Complete Guide to Bible Versions"
 - c. "What Is a Bible Commentary?"
3. Listen to Essential Doctrines, "God's Purpose of Grace."
4. Read the "Baptist Faith and Message 2000 Summary."
5. Finish memorizing Ephesians 2:8-9.
6. Listen to the song, "I Believe" by Wes King.

Pray together.

We encourage both the mentor and disciple to pray.

Confirm the time of the next session.

Session 4 - How do I study the Bible?

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

Warm-up.

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

Explore the 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?

Discuss the assignments.

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. Why does it take effort to understand and interpret the Bible correctly?
 - ii. What is an 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. **"Complete Guide to Bible Versions"**
 - 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. **"What Is a Bible Commentary?"**
 - i. Discuss how commentaries can be a helpful resource to Bible study.
3. **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.)

4. **Briefly review the “Baptist Faith and Message 2000 Summary”:**
 - a. A more complete statement is available at <https://bfm.sbc.net>. Parkway joins many other Southern Baptist churches in affirming this statement.
 - b. Notice all the references to Scripture! Why is that important to a statement of faith?
5. **Scripture memory:** Can you recite Ephesians 2:8-9?

Study the Bible together.

Read **Psalms 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?

Preview the assignments for the next session.

1. Daily Bible reading: The book of Luke & Acts.
2. Watch:
 - a. “Bible Project Old Testament Overview” video
 - b. “Bible Project New Testament Overview” video
3. Read the following articles:
 - a. “Old Testament Structure and Timeline”
 - b. “New Testament Structure and Timeline”
 - 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 you get an overview of the entire Bible and see how it all points to Jesus Christ as the true hero.

Warm-up.

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

Discuss the assignments.

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 and Timeline"**
 - 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 and Timeline"**
 - 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?
 - ii. 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?

Preview the assignments for the next session.

- 1. Daily Bible reading: The book of Luke & Acts.
- 2. Read the chapter "What Is Prayer?" in [Christian Beliefs](#) (Grudem).
- 3. Read the following articles:
 - a. "A Transformed Heart"
 - b. "Transformed Affections"
 - c. "How to Pray"
- 4. Listen to "The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit."
- 5. Finish memorizing 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
- 6. Listen to the song, "A Little Proof" by Kaelob Mecum.
- 7. Optional: 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 you to the identity, purpose, and work of the Holy Spirit.

Warm-up.

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

Discuss the assignments.

1. **Daily Bible Reading:** How did your daily Bible reading go? Any questions about what you read?
2. **Discuss these questions about "What Is Prayer?" in Christian Beliefs:**
 - a. Why does God want us to pray?
 - b. Is God required to give us what we ask for in prayer? Why or why not?
 - c. What can hinder our prayers?
3. **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. **"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 the Scripture from this session's Bible study.
4. **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?

5. **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. How does it help to know that the Holy Spirit is the presence of Jesus with us now, and He has the same priorities of the Jesus in the Bible?

Preview the assignments for the next session.

1. Daily Bible reading: The book of Luke & Acts.
2. Read the chapter, “What is the Church?” in Christian Beliefs (Grudem).
3. Read these articles:
 - a. “The Lord’s Supper”
 - b. “Nine Biblical Functions of the Church”
 - c. “Why Church Membership?”
4. Listen to “The Doctrine of the Church.”
5. Begin memorizing Romans 6:23.
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 you see the importance and value of being a vital part of the church.

Warm-up.

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

Discuss the assignments.

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 Christian Beliefs:**
 - a. How is a church congregation different from a group Bible study or people gathered at a Christian retreat? (*Only the church 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: worship, teaching the Word, evangelism & disciple making, prayer, care & fellowship, the Lord's supper, sacrificial giving, serving & ministry, and baptism.
 - ii. How do you see some or all of these functions carried out in our church?
 - c. **"Why Church Membership?"**
 - i. Why is it so important to be in the community of the church rather than go it alone as a Christian?
 - ii. What do you think are some strengths of Parkway as a church? What are some areas we have room for growth/improvement?

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:** 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?

Preview the assignments for the next session.

1. Daily Bible reading: If you have completed the reading plan of Luke and Acts, begin “Genesis Explained-Part 1” in the *YouVersion* Bible app.
2. Read these articles:
 - a. “My Identity in Christ”
 - b. “A Transformed Will”
 - c. “Transformed Relationship”
 - d. “The Who, What, When, Where, and Why of Baptism.”
3. Listen to Essential Doctrines, “The Doctrine of the Man.”
4. Finish memorizing Romans 6:23.
5. Listen to the song, “Who Am I?” by Casting Crowns.
6. OPTIONAL:
 - a. Read the chapter, “What Is Man?” in Christian Beliefs (Grudem).
 - b. Watch the movie, “Overcomer” by the Kendrick Brothers.

Pray together.

Confirm the time of the next session.

Session 8 - What is my identity in Christ?

Main purpose: To lead you to understand what it means to become a new person in Christ and grow into this identity.

Warm-up.

1. Pray for God's guidance and wisdom in your meeting.
2. How did you see God at work in your life this week?
3. Did you watch the optional movie, "Overcomer"?

Discuss the assignments.

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"**
 - i. Have the disciple choose at least one of the statements and explain how it speaks to their new identity in Christ.
 - b. **"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?
 - c. **"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.)*
 - d. **"The Who, What, When, Where, and Why of Baptism."**
 - i. Why do we call it "believer's baptism"?
 - ii. If you don't have to be baptized to be saved, then why is it still important?
3. **Review the "The Doctrine of Man" video:**
 - a. 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:** 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?

Preview the assignments for the next session.

1. Daily Bible reading: "Genesis Explained-Part 2."
2. Read these articles:
 - a. "A Transformed Mind"
 - b. "A Transformed Purpose"
 - c. "Spiritual Warfare"
3. Listen to Essential Doctrines, "The Doctrine of the Kingdom."
4. Begin memorizing Romans 15:5-7.
5. Listen to the song, "Even If" by Mercy Me.
6. OPTIONAL:
 - a. Watch the movie, "War Room" by the Kendrick brothers.
 - b. Listen to the song, "New Name Written Down in Glory" by Charity Gayle.

Pray together.

Please pray together for God to bring reconciliation in any broken relationships.

Confirm the time of the next session.

Session 9 - What is spiritual warfare?

Main purpose: To prepare you to recognize and be prepared to face temptation and opposition in your walk with Christ.

Warm-up.

1. Pray for God's guidance and wisdom in your meeting.
2. How did you see God at work in your life this week?
3. Did you watch the optional "War Room" movie? (optional)

Discuss the assignments.

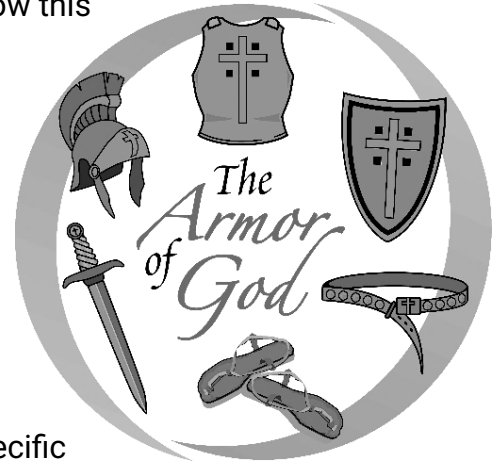
1. **Daily Bible reading:** How did your daily Bible reading go? Any questions about what you read?
2. **Discuss these questions about the assigned articles:**
 - a. **"The Transformed Mind"**
 - i. How does God go about changing your mind?
 - ii. In what way is the Lord changing your perspectives?
 - iii. How often do you think about spiritual things?
 - b. **"A Transformed Purpose"**
 - i. As followers of Christ, why is our 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?
 - c. **"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? (*What does "Greater is He that is in us than he that is the world" mean?*)
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?
 - 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:** 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" in your 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?



Preview the assignments for the next session.

1. Daily Bible reading: "Genesis Explained-Part 2."
2. Read the chapters, "What Makes Jesus so Different?" "Lord, Liar or Lunatic?" and "What about Science?" in More Than a Carpenter (McDowell).
3. Read the article, "The Christian Apologetic."
4. Watch the "3 Circles" gospel presentation. Share it with a friend.
5. Continue memorizing Romans 15:5-7.
6. Listen to the song, "The Battle Belongs to You" by Phil Wickham.
7. 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 you with evidences for the Christian faith and reasons that explain why following Jesus is not blind faith.

Warm-up.

1. Pray for God's guidance and wisdom in your meeting.
2. How did you see God at work in your life this week?
3. Did you watch the optional video "Expository Apologetics" by Voddie Baucham?

Discuss the assignments.

1. **Daily Bible reading:** How did your daily Bible reading go? Any questions about what you read?
2. **Discuss these questions about the three chapters in More Than a Carpenter:**
 - a. What evidence is there that Jesus claimed to be God?
 - b. What does it mean to say that Jesus must either be Lord, a liar, or a lunatic?
 - c. Why can't Jesus just be seen as a moral teacher?
 - d. What are some truths that cannot be proved scientifically?
 - e. 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. Do you agree with the four big questions that 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. **Review the 3 Circles presentation together:**
 - a. Draw three empty circles on a piece of paper and complete the diagram together.
3 Circles is available as an app: "Life on Mission."
 - b. Can you guide someone through this?
5. **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?

Preview the assignments for the next session.

1. Daily Bible reading: "Genesis Explained-Part 3."
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 15:5-7.
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 you understand the Christian responsibility to manage your time, talents, and resources for the good of God's kingdom.

Warm-up.

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

Discuss the assignments.

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 at Parkway"**
 - i. What does it mean to make the shift from giving as an obligation to giving as a matter of stewardship?
 - 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?
6. **Scripture memory:** Can you recite Romans 15:5-7?

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? (*If we all have different gifts, what does that imply?*)
2. Why is the confession, "Jesus is Lord," (v. 3) so important to the way we understand and using our spiritual gifts? (*How does serving Jesus put 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"?

Preview the assignments for the next session.

1. Daily Bible reading: Genesis Explained.
2. Consider a small group at Parkway to join.
3. Read these articles:
 - a. "Becoming a Disciple Maker."
 - b. "My Next Steps in Discipleship"
4. Review all your Scripture memory verses.
5. Listen to the song, "Never Get Used to This" by Forrest Frank.
6. OPTIONAL: 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 is next?

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

Warm-up.

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

Discuss the assignments.

1. **Daily Bible reading:** How did your daily Bible reading go?
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?
4. **Discuss the article, "My Next Steps in Discipleship."**
 - a. Review together the personal assessment questions. Address any concerns or unresolved matters as action steps.
 - b. Identify next steps for these major action points: **Bible reading, Christian community, Bible knowledge and application, and sharing your faith.**

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?

Pray together.

For the mentor

Goals as you begin this journey

- To develop a lasting relationship with your disciple.
- To know that this can be an eternal investment, both in the one you seek to mentor as well as for yourself.
- To pray deeply before each session. Seek the guidance and wisdom of the Holy Spirit.
- To 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.
- To lead your disciple to take real steps of obedience. Transformation comes primarily by cooperating with the Holy Spirit and doing the will of God.

Confidentiality

Maintain confidentiality with your disciple. What is shared between you should not be shared with anyone else, even a spouse, without permission. However, please communicate that confidentiality in this space includes the Pastor. Reserve the right with your disciple to share any serious concerns with the Pastor as a matter of caring.

Remember, Parkway is not asking you to be a counselor or therapist. What we mean by “mentor” is for you to be a friend who is perhaps a step or two ahead in the spiritual journey with your disciple. Your main roles are encourager, accountability partner, and prayer advocate. Please consult with the program coordinator or the pastor for questions or issues you do not feel comfortable in addressing.

Bible studies

The Bible study component that you do together with your disciple is particularly important. While it is not required, we encourage you to do some commentary study on your own prior to your meeting. A good, free resource is **BibleHub.com**. Just plug in a verse at a time and you can see it in multiple versions. Click on “Comment” to see several commentaries on the passage. Click on “Study” to see the verse in a study Bible as well with a breakdown of teaching points.

A good one-volume commentary to purchase and use is *The Moody Bible Commentary*. The *Wiersbe Bible Commentary* is another good choice, but it comes in separate volumes for the Old and New Testaments.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Does the church schedule our mentor-disciple meetings?**
No. We start you off with an orientation session, and then you set your own meeting times and places for the 12 sessions.
- **What if we can't meet a certain week?**
Simply reschedule when you can. Do not skip sessions. Do try to keep a weekly rhythm of meeting together as best you can.
- **Can anyone else join us in our meetings?**
Yes, but we'd like to keep a mentor-disciple group no bigger than three to keep it personal and interactive.
- **Do mentors do all the assignments?**
Yes, at least for your first time through the program. We want you to learn and grow as you go!
- **I am in another daily Bible reading plan. Do I need to participate in this program for Bible reading?**
Yes. You need to decide if you want to do both, but we want you to use the assigned plan in the YouVersion app together as an accountability measure.
- **Can I do all the assignments on my phone?**
Yes, we are doing our best to make sure all the content is available either by link or by download through www.parkwayfamily.org/disciple.
- **Not all the chapters in the More Than a Carpenter and Christian Beliefs books are assigned. Can I read these if I wish?**
Certainly. These books contain valuable information, and we hope you will finish them both.
- **What if we run out of time in a session and don't finish all the activities?**
Please do your best to work through as much of each session's content as you can, but we want to emphasize two things:
 - The value of doing the Bible study together.
 - Addressing pressing questions or issues most helpful to the disciple.We encourage flexibility. You may also want to add a meeting to complete a session.

Real people,
walking with Christ,
inviting others
and serving together
to reach our
neighbors and nations
with the gospel
of Jesus Christ.

Parkway Baptist Church

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