



FOUNDATION STUDIES



**FOLLOW UP STUDIES
FOR NEW DISCIPLES**

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GOD'S LOVE

NARRATIVE NUGGETS: What makes it easy to love someone? What makes it hard?

Luke 15:11-31

- What made the younger brother hard to love? What made the older brother hard to love?
- Who does the father represent in this parable? Why do you think the father (i.e. God) “goes out to meet” both of them?
- How does God’s love in this story inspire, challenge or convict you? Why?
- How can you be hard to love?
- Write down three ways in which God, our Father, has “gone out to meet you” over the past year when you have been hard to love.

Brick and Mortar Passages

Romans 5:6-8

2 Corinthians 5:14-21

Hebrews 12:4-13

1 John 3:1-3

Romans 8:28-39

Deuteronomy 7:7-9

Exodus 34:6

Laying the Bricks (Application)

God’s love for his sons manifested itself in action; celebration, forgiveness, reconciliation, etc. What actions can you take this week to echo God’s love for you toward others? In other words, what actions can you take to show love to someone else this week? Are there any obstacles that would get in the way of this application? How? What difference would it make in your life if you pursued these actions?

FAITH

NARRATIVE NUGGETS: What is faith? Why is it important to have faith in God? In what else are you tempted to place your faith? In other words, what are you tempted to lean on to feel secure, complete, or content?

Luke 8:40-48

- How would you describe the woman's emotional/mental state?
- Where did she place her faith? How did it show?
- Explain the interaction between the woman and Jesus... what stands out to you? What resulted from the woman's faith?
- Why do you think she placed her faith in Jesus?
- Stories of faith can, at times, lead us to focus on the quality of our faith rather than on the object of our faith. How is putting your faith in "faith" different from putting your faith in Jesus?
- Why does Jesus deserve our trust/faith? How does this story show that he is trustworthy?

Brick and Mortar Passages

- 1 Peter 1:7
- Hebrews 11:1, 6
- Romans 4:18-22
- Romans 10:17
- Mark 9:24

Which of these passages inspires you most? Why?

Laying the Bricks (Application)

The object of our faith is far more important than the quantity of our faith. What actions can you take this week to more deeply place your faith in Jesus? What obstacles could get in the way of these actions? If you took these actions, what difference would it make in your life?

SERVANTHOOD

NARRATIVE NUGGETS: What is a servant? Why should we aspire to become servants of Jesus?

John 13:1-7

- Why did Jesus humble himself in this way?
- Even though Judas was about to betray him, why did Jesus serve him anyway?
- Does Jesus' example of servanthood inspire, challenge, or convict you? Discuss how.
- How can serving others become easier after reading this story?
- Write down 3 ways that God has "served" you over this past year. Thank God!

Brick and Mortar Passages

- Matthew 20:28
- Philippians 2:3-4
- Galatians 5:13-14
- Matthew 23:11
- Colossians 3:23-24
- 1 Peter 4:10-11

Laying the Bricks (Application)

For Jesus, serving wasn't an event, it was who He was. You have the same identity of servanthood inside of you through his Holy Spirit!

Challenge: Put your gifts to work this week (1 Peter 4:10)!

You are surrounded by opportunities—it's all in how you see it. Jesus said, "Open your eyes and look! The fields are ripe for harvest" (Matthew 9:37). How can you use your gifts to meet a small need this week?

NARRATIVE NUGGETS: God has chosen to reveal himself to us in a primary way: his Word. How can we know God more through Scripture?

Psalm 119:1-6

- How does this Psalmist regard the Word of God? How would it affect your Bible study if you brought that attitude to the Word?
- Why do you think in v. 7 the Psalmist links praising God with learning His Word? Has a better understanding of God's Word ever prompted you to praise Him?
- How does obedience deepen one's connection to the Word (and to our God)?
- God gives us the Word to protect us against sin; what are some of the different ways mentioned in v 9-16 that one can connect to God's Word? How could those practices promote purity?
- What is the difference between reading the Word and hiding it in your heart? meditating on it? delighting in it?

Brick and Mortar Passages

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- James 1:22-25
- Psalm 1:1-3
- John 12:47-50
- Acts 8:26-39

What inspires and motivates you about the Word of God from these passages? How might you adjust your approach to studying and obeying God's Word based on these passages?

Laying the Bricks (Application)

Read through a Bible passage together, using one of the Bible Study models, trying out either the 35 or 90 minute model below.

BIBLE (CONTINUED)

35-Minute Example Quiet Time

- **Ready:** prepare your mind and heart to receive God's Word with reverence
 - Psalm 119:18
 - Psalm 139:23-24
- **Read:** deliberately, intentionally, and repeatedly
- **Reflect:** picture it, paraphrase it, personalize it, pray it
- **Record:** write down a promise to claim, command to obey, sin to avoid, example to imitate, question to resolve, change to embrace, or truth to believe
- **Resolve:** to act on something or hold firmly to a truth
- **Remember:** consider memorizing a portion of your reading
- **Reply:** pray to God with this passage fresh in mind

90-Minute Example Quiet Time

- **Survey the text:** Read, re-read, and note the initial "Big Idea."
- **Investigate the context:** e.g. literary context, historical context, and redemptive context
- **Detail the content:** What does it say, what do the words mean, compare literal translations, are there key terms or ideas whose meaning may be explained by looking elsewhere in the same book?
- **Summarize it on paper:** Make it clear, capture the big idea, the conviction, and the application. (Nehemiah 8:8-12)
- **Apply it:** Consider cultural relativity issues. (Hebrews 5:14,)

CHURCH

NARRATIVE NUGGETS: Why does God describe His Church as the body of Christ?

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

- How can gifts unite the church?
- What gifts do you have? How can you use that gift (or multiple gifts) to benefit the church?
- If you don't know your gifts, try exploring with these helpful surveys!
 - bit.ly/online-gifts-survey
 - bit.ly/printable-gifts-survey
- How does diversity in the body help the church flourish?
- Can any part of our human bodies survive on their own? Why is it against God's will for you to pull away from the body? How might pulling away from the body of Christ be is this harmful to both you and the body?
- In what ways can we "suffer" and "rejoice" together?
- Write down all the ways that the body has encouraged you, lifted you up, and supported you so far in your during your walk with God.

Brick and Mortar Passages

- Romans 8:16-17
- Acts 2:42-47
- 2 Corinthians 8:7
- 1 John 1:5-10
- Ephesians 2:11-20
- Ephesians 4:1-6
- Romans 12:4-8

Laying the Bricks (Application)

God does not leave us alone, but rather provides men and women in the church to build us up in many different ways. What action can you take this week to build up the body of Christ?

UNITY

NARRATIVE NUGGETS: What does it mean to be unified in Christ? What are some ways that it can be difficult to stay united? Who is your neighbor? Do you consider all people to be your neighbor?

Luke 10: 25-27

- Do you consider people who you don't know to be your neighbors?
- Based on this passage, what does it mean to love your neighbor as yourself? What does that look like for you?
- Why do you think it is difficult to love all people as yourself?
- Do you have any racial/cultural/social bias or prejudices that you feel are being exposed that you need to repent of?

John 4: 1-26

- Use this story as a case study and discuss the ways that Jesus was an example of loving his neighbor. Why do you think this story is important when it comes to the topic of unity?
- Do you go out of your way to communicate with those who are different from you?

Brick and Mortar Passages

Genesis 1:27

Galatians 3:26-28

Matthew 28:19

Acts 2:1-4

Romans 8:37-39

Revelation 14:6-7

Colossians 3:5-14

Laying the Bricks (Application)

It can be difficult to break down our own biases and prejudices that have been implanted in us from the time that we were born, but we know that the Bible calls us to be different and set apart from that way of thinking. In what ways do we see Jesus going against the culture of prejudice? It is important to remember we have blind spots when it comes to bias/prejudice; there is a need for humility and eagerness to learn what we don't know, especially from others with different heritages and cultures.

OFFERING

NARRATIVE NUGGETS: What should motivate someone to give financially to the church?

Mark 12:41-44

- Why do you think Jesus was watching the crowd give their offerings?
- What do you think may have motivated the woman to give her offering?
- Why does Jesus call attention to this woman's offering?
- What does Jesus value most when it comes to our offerings; the amount or the heart behind the offering? Why?

Genesis 4:1-7

- What is the difference between the two offerings?
- What does it mean when it says, "The Lord looked with favor"?
- How do these passages inspire, challenge or convict you? Why?

Brick and Mortar Passages

- Philippians 4: 14-19
- 1 Chronicles 29: 14-18
- Proverbs 3: 9-10
- 2 Corinthians 9:6-9
- Nehemiah 10: 35-37
- Malachi 3: 6-12
- 2 Corinthians 8:9
- 2 Corinthians 8: 10-15

Laying the Bricks (Application)

Take time to think about all the ways God has blessed you. As a disciple of Jesus we can express gratitude in many different ways. We can give our time, our service, our talents, and our finances! Take a look at your finances and determine what a generous and sacrificial offering will be for you. What could prevent you from being generous? What difference could it make if you were consistently generous with material wealth?

EVANGELISM

NARRATIVE NUGGETS: Evangelism means to bring a message of good news. Describe in your own words why the gospel of Jesus is good news to the world.

Luke 10:1-20

- What did Jesus mean when he said “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few?”
- Describe the task that Jesus set out for them to accomplish. What did he expect them to do?
- What sacrifices would they need to make to reach these villages with the good news?
- How do you feel about being sent out to tell others the good news? What excitement do you feel? What are your hesitations?
- What sacrifices would you need to make in order to prioritize this mission in your life?
- The disciples came about from this mission filled with joy. What joy do you think you get to experience by telling others the good news? What other encouragement can you find in this passage to inspire you?

Brick and Mortar Passages

- Luke 8:1-3, 9:1-6
- Matthew 9:35-38
- Luke 9:57-60
- 1 Corinthians 9:19-23
- 2 Corinthians 5:14-21
- Colossians 4:2-6

Laying the Bricks (Application)

- Come up with a list of ways you can start a spiritual conversation with strangers.
- Come up with a 30-second testimony that you can share with strangers to tell them how God has changed your life.
- Set up a time and place with a partner to go proclaim the kingdom of God with. Celebrate afterwards how you saw God work.

REPENTANCE

NARRATIVE NUGGETS: What emotion is stirred when you hear the command, “Repent”? What does Jesus want you to experience when you hear his call to “Repent”?

Luke 19:1-10

- Describe all the ways that Zacchaeus displayed an eagerness to repent and return to God in Christ.
- Zacchaeus was alienated from God and His community through greed and compromised loyalty; has sin recently left you experiencing similar isolation?
- Why was it likely difficult for Zacchaeus to confess and repent before the crowds? What makes confession difficult for you?
- Jesus is able to call Zacchaeus down from the tree (and from shame and sin) because in just a few days Jesus will go up a tree bearing that shame and sin. How does Jesus’ willingness to bear your shame and sin motivate you to repent and return to Him?

Brick and Mortar Passages

- 2 Corinthians 7:8-11
- 1 Peter 2:24-25
- Acts 19:13-20
- 1 John 1:3-2:2
- Proverbs 28:13
- Luke 15

Which of these passages helps you to see a clearer picture of biblical repentance? When read together, how do these passages better equip and inform you about why and how you can always return to God?

Laying the Bricks (Application)

Zacchaeus models repentance for us as he solidifies his allegiance to Jesus. What “here and now” conviction should you act on? Is there something that the Spirit is prompting you to confess and make right?

NARRATIVE NUGGETS: What is grace?

Ephesians 2:1-10

- In verses 1-3, how are we described?
- In what ways did you follow the cravings and desires of your sinful nature? How was the world and the devil at work in your life?
- What did you deserve as a result?
- How did God respond to your sin and disobedience?
- What characteristics did he display?
- What does this reveal to us about God?
- The idea of being made alive is to be made righteous and without sin (sin is why we were dead). How does God make us righteous/right with Him?
- How is this accomplished in Christ? This is a great chance to comprehend the gospel message again.
- According to this passage, what/who can we credit our salvation to and why? Why is that the case?
- Do you ever feel like salvation from God is something you have to work for? Why or why not? If so, explain. How does this passage tell you otherwise?
- You are not saved by good works, but you are saved to do good works. What good work does God call you to do?

Brick and Mortar Passages

- Titus 3:3-8
- Colossians 1:21-22
- Philippians 3:7-10
- 1 Corinthians 6:9-12

Laying the Bricks (Application)

How can you keep what you have learned from this message fresh in your mind throughout the week?

Read Titus 2:11-12. In what area can God's grace help you to live godly this week? How can knowing God's grace help you extend grace to others? Who is someone that needs your grace this week?

HOLY SPIRIT

NARRATIVE NUGGETS: Who is the person of the Holy Spirit? What is his role in our lives? How often do you consider the Holy Spirit throughout your day? Why did God give the Holy Spirit to his disciples?

Acts 2:38-39 and John 16:7-15

- Why does God describe the Holy Spirit as a gift?
- Why does God give us this gift?
- In addition to describing the Holy Spirit as a gift, he is described as our Advocate (see John 15:26). In other words: a Helper, Encourager or Mediator.
- How has the Holy Spirit been a helper, encourager and mediator to you in your walk with God? When you think of being a helper, encourager or a mediator to someone, what comes to mind? How does this help you to understand the Holy Spirit's role in our lives?

Brick and Mortar Passages

- John 7:39
- John 14:16-18
- Ephesians 3:14-21
- Romans 8: 5-16
- Galatians 5:22-23

Laying the Bricks (Application)

The Holy Spirit is working to mold us into the likeness of Jesus each and every day of our lives (1 Cor 3.18). If we are not proactively following His direction then we are susceptible to the lies Satan tries to tell us. Satan wants you to forget the Holy Spirit's work in your life (or not hear and obey his direction).

This week spend time studying out the "Brick & Mortar" passages for your Quiet time. Journal how the Holy Spirit has been working to transform you into the likeness of Jesus. When you have made choices to follow the Spirit of God, what do you notice different around you? How do your choices of godliness impact those closest to you?

BAPTISM

NARRATIVE NUGGETS: What does the religious world teach about baptism? How important is baptism?

John 3:1-8

- What do you think it means to “see the kingdom of God”?
- What does it mean “to be born again” (“from above,” in some translations)?
- Why do you think Nicodemus struggles to understand this?
- Jesus repeats himself in v. 5, saying almost the same exact words again, but this time clarifying what he means by “born again.” What does he say in v. 5?
- What is an event in the life of a Christian that involves water and the Spirit? (Look at Acts 3:38 for a clue).
- If baptism is the event of being “reborn,” what do you think Jesus means? How is baptism similar to birth?
- What if there is no “rebirth” in the heart of the one being baptized? Is biblical baptism occurring? Why or why not?

Brick and Mortar Passages

- Acts 2:14-41
- Acts 9:1-19
- Acts 22:12-16
- Romans 6:1-14
- Colossians 2:9-15
- 1 Peter 3:18-22

After looking at these passages, what do you think God wants us to understand about baptism?

Laying the Bricks (Application)

Take some time to write down the rebirth you experienced at your baptism? If no rebirth occurred, no reception of the Holy Spirit, then how can you pursue rebirth in the here and now? What parts of your heart need to return to the heart that you had at baptism?

PRAYER

NARRATIVE NUGGETS: How should one pray?

Luke 11:1-4

- As Jews, the apostles probably prayed before, and quite often. Why do you think the disciples asked Jesus how to pray?
- Does Jesus want people to pray this prayer word for word? Why or why not?
- What aspects of this prayer are surprising to you? Why?
- Jesus lays out a general prayer template in this passage to help us be balanced in our prayer life (ACTS):
 - Adoration: “hallowed by your name, your kingdom come”
 - Confession: “forgive us our sins and those who sins against us”
 - Thanksgiving
 - Supplication: “Give us our daily bread” and “lead us not into temptation”

Brick and Mortar Passages

- 1 John 5:14
- Ephesians 6:18
- Matthew 5:44
- Matthew 6:7
- Psalm 141:2
- Romans 12:12

Laying the Bricks (Application)

Practice the ACTS prayer (above) this week. Notice the parts that are easier for you, and the parts that are more difficult. Try to spend gradually more time praying for the areas that are more difficult for you and share with a friend what you’ve learned from this exercise.

Balanced prayer will change our hearts and we wrestle with God. Prayer can turn us from despair to delight if we continue in it.

DISCIPLESHIP

NARRATIVE NUGGETS: What makes it hard to follow someone? As a disciple, we are called to follow Jesus, how can this be easy? How can this be hard?

Luke 5:1-11

- After Jesus taught the people, what did He ask Peter to do? (v. 4)
- Why might someone think Jesus was rude or inappropriate?
- Why does Peter do what Jesus says?
- How does Peter's attitude change after he gets all the fish?
- Why did Peter's attitude change?
- What does this tell you about following Jesus?
- How does this story help you trust Jesus and follow Him?

Brick and Mortar Passages

The Word of God helps us follow Jesus

- Psalm 119:105 – How does the Word help us?
- John 8:31-32 – How does reading and obeying the Word help us?

Relationships with other disciples help us follow Jesus

- How do relationships with other disciples help us follow Jesus?
- Hebrews 3:12-13 – We encourage one another daily; help each other do right; help each other trust God.
- Hebrews 10:23-25 – We help one another by spurring each other to do good things.
- How does attending the church services help you?

Prayer helps us follow Jesus

- How does prayer help you to follow Jesus?
- Phil. 4:6-7
- 1 Peter 5:7

Laying the Bricks (Application)

Ask other disciples in the study: What are some ways scripture, prayer and other people have helped you follow Jesus?

HOPE

NARRATIVE NUGGETS: Biblical hope is a life-changing, anxiety-abolishing, joy-injecting certainty about the future that makes perseverance little more than logical prudence. It's being certain about future events in such a way that shapes how you live now.

1 Peter 1:3-9

- Peter is gushing about the hope we have through Jesus. What are some of the features of this living hope?
- If you had a tremendous inheritance that was guaranteed to come your way, how would it shape your view of your future? How much bigger and better is your inheritance from Jesus than the one you just imagined?
- Why does Peter assume that we “greatly rejoice” in our future hope?
- Tough times or trials still come our way. How does biblical hope help us rethink tough times?

Brick and Mortar Passages

- Hebrews 11:1
- Hebrews 6:16-20
- Titus 3:3-8
- 1 Corinthians 15:12-19
- Romans 8:18-25
- 1 John 3:1-3

Which of these passages helps you to see a clearer picture of biblical hope? How will this make you think differently from this day forward?

When read together, how do they better equip and inform you about why and how you should persevere in light of a hope filled future?

Laying the Bricks (Application)

Draw a timeline on a sheet of paper. Begin with your year of birth and mark your likely lifespan just an inch to the right. Now consider the hope that fills the remainder of the timeline. Write down descriptions of your future hope that you've read in the scriptures listed above. Imagine that timeline becoming more and more wonderful after 100 years, now 500 years, now 1000 years, and again at 10,000 years (we've only just begun!).

Give thanks to God for your living hope.

FELLOWSHIP

NARRATIVE NUGGETS: Is fellowship (being with body of believers) vital to your spiritual wellbeing? What does fellowship look like?

Acts 2:40-47

- What type of fellowship did this brand new church have?
- Why would the author of Acts call attention to the actions of the disciples?
- How can fellowship happen outside of organized worship services?
- Why is fellowship crucial to the health of the individual disciple? Why would someone remove themselves from fellowship? How could Satan destroy fellowship in the church?
- How can consistent fellowship help you in your faith this week?
- Write out your average weekly schedule to see when you have time to get with the brothers and sisters of the church or invite them into your life. Even a little bit of time goes a long way.

Brick and Mortar Passages

- 2 Timothy 3:10-11
- 1 Thessalonians 2:17-20
- 2 Thessalonians 4:9-10
- John 17:20-23
- Acts 20:1,7,17-19
- Acts 4:23-31
- Acts 20:1,7
- Ephesians 4:1-6

Which of these passages hits the most? What stands out to you about the early church and Paul's feelings towards being together?

Laying the Bricks (Application)

God's design for fellowship, his body is much, much more than worship services. We are bonded together through baptism and spirit, closer than family through the blood of Jesus. What can you do to jump into the fellowship more?

How can you join (and help) to create opportunities for fellowship outside of worship services?