



foundations

pursuing Christ through discipleship



*for no one can lay a foundation
other than that which is laid,
which is Jesus Christ.*

1 corinthians 3:11

table of contents

| | |
|--|----|
| why discipleship? | 4 |
| don't skip this! | 5 |
| what is the bible? | 6 |
| introduction..... | 8 |
| authority..... | 10 |
| sufficiency..... | 12 |
| authorship..... | 14 |
| power..... | 16 |
| who is God? | 18 |
| introduction..... | 20 |
| holy..... | 22 |
| love..... | 24 |
| omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent..... | 26 |
| sovereign..... | 28 |
| who is Jesus? | 30 |
| introduction..... | 32 |
| son of God..... | 34 |
| son of man..... | 36 |
| savior..... | 38 |
| lord and king..... | 40 |
| who is the Holy Spirit? | 42 |
| introduction..... | 44 |
| indwelling..... | 46 |
| helper..... | 48 |
| divine power..... | 50 |
| security..... | 52 |
| what is the story? | 54 |
| introduction..... | 56 |
| creation..... | 58 |
| fall..... | 60 |
| redemption..... | 62 |
| restoration..... | 64 |

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why discipleship?

the story of God is the story of a king saving his people and building his eternal kingdom—a kingdom that is made up of people from every tribe, tongue, and nation. his is an ever-expanding kingdom, and it includes us as **disciples of Jesus**.

before Jesus returned to heaven after his resurrection, he commanded his disciples to go and make disciples who would then make disciples (matthew 28:19-20). you are reading these words as a result of their obedience and the obedience of generations of men and women after them.

Jesus' command to make disciples applies just as much to us today as it did to his original followers. **he desires disciples, not merely converts**. he wants us to be followers and worshippers of him, not simply spectators and fans.

this is the essence of discipleship: follow me as together we follow Christ.

as you use this resource, do not let this be merely a cognitive exercise. discipleship is not simply knowing more about God, but rather it is **knowing God intimately** and **daily surrendering your life to his lordship**.

read slowly. ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you more and more of who God is and his steadfast love for you specifically. pray that your heart and mind would be moved to worship as you meet with God in his word.

in order to love God we must know him. as our knowledge of him grows, we are to make him known. as members of the body of Christ, we get to spur one another on towards Christ-likeness through discipleship.

this is the essence of discipleship: follow me as together we follow Christ. the commandment hasn't changed—we are to be disciplined to make disciples who make disciples. his kingdom is made up of people who know him, love him, and follow him. **if you belong to him, you are a part of this kingdom**.

so then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone.

ephesians 2:19-20

don't skip this!

foundations was created to be a resource for you to use as you walk through your discipling relationships. it in no way replaces scripture as the authority on any topic or truth, but rather it is to be supplemental in your growing understanding of God and his word. the purpose of this tool is to assist in laying a solid biblical foundation as well as equip believers to study the bible and disciple others to do the same.

a few notes as you begin:

- **pray!**

it is the Holy Spirit who guides us into all truth (john 16:13), so anytime we seek to read or study scripture, we need to first **pray that the Holy Spirit would illuminate our minds** to understand the truths we will read and **soften our hearts** to let scripture transform us.

- **slow down!**

resist the temptation to treat any of this as an item on a checklist or see this as homework. do not feel the pressure to finish any portion in a single sitting or even to look up every scripture reference listed.

the end goal of this resource is not that you would finish any of it in a specific timeframe, but that you would **grow to know God and worship him more**.

- **be free!**

each section of *foundations* includes an introduction and four parts to provide a structure for getting together regularly to study and discuss the word. consider focusing on just one of these parts each week. this pace will allow you to enjoy several days reading and meditating on the scriptures as you reflect on what the Holy Spirit reveals to you before you meet to talk about it.

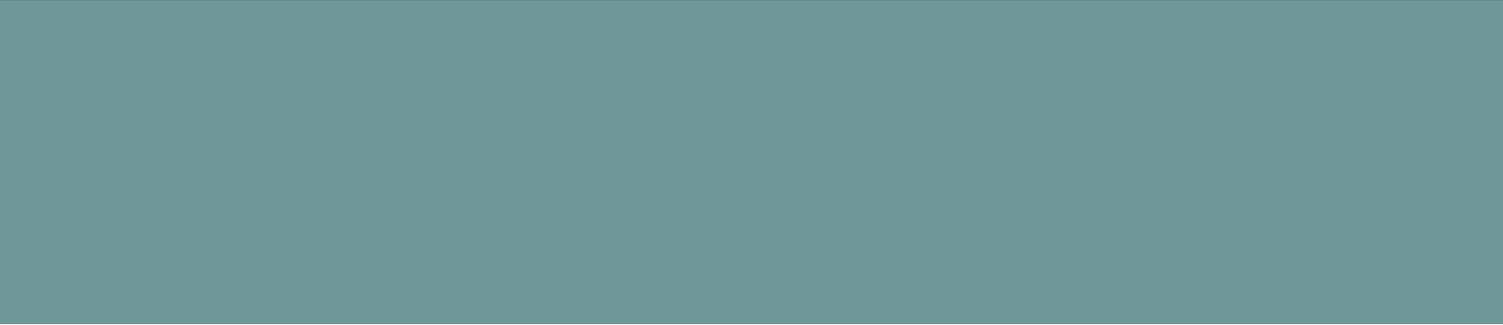
however, you are welcome to **move through it at whatever pace works for your discipling relationship**. everything is provided for your benefit—feel free to use it in the way that works best for you as the Spirit leads.

**teach me your way, o Lord,
that I may walk in your truth;
unite my heart to fear your name.**

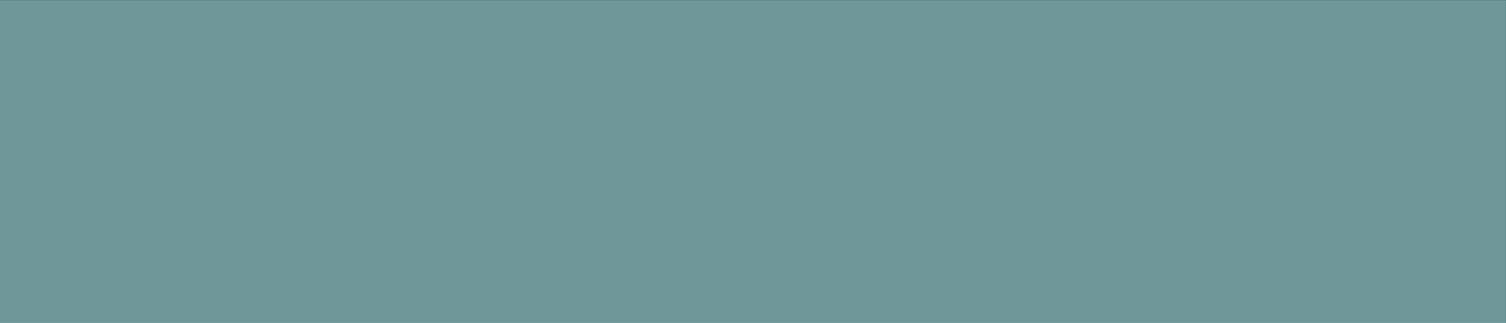
psalm 86:11



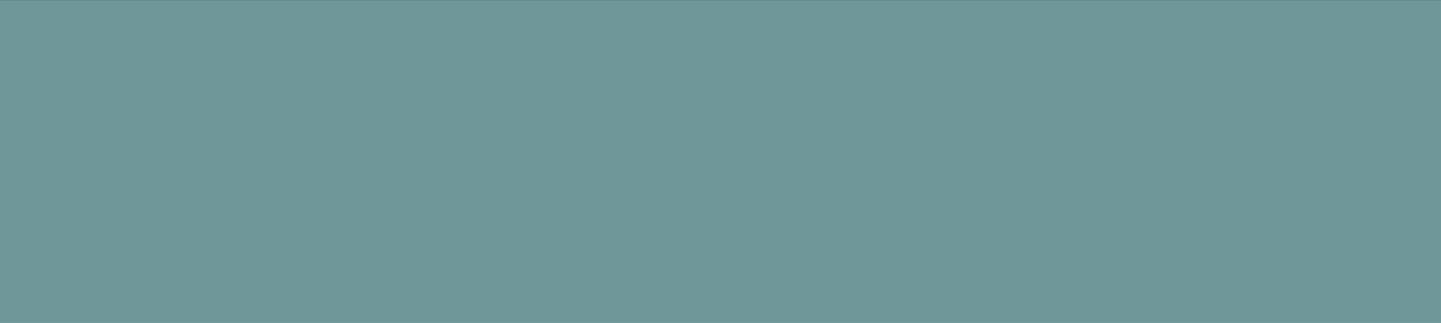
**what is
the
bible?**



**who is
God?**



**who is
Jesus?**



**who is the
Holy Spirit?**



**what is
the
story?**



loving him
& loving his.