

# KINGDOM TRAINING LEVEL 2: SIX FOUNDATIONAL STUDIES AND TOOLS TO MAKE DISCIPLES

## INTRODUCTION

Kingdom Training Level 2 introduces six STUDIES designed to teach someone how to become a disciple of Jesus. These “basic” studies address the exact issues that frequently prevent many religious people from fully accepting Jesus’ call to give up everything and become his disciple. Each study is formatted to facilitate discussion and learning, including questions that will help the person you are studying with to learn to read the Bible for themselves. The course also includes five “Disciple-Making TOOLS” to help disciples become more effective at making disciples. The Level 2 Course Overview lists the STUDIES, the memory verses, and the Disciple-Making TOOLS that will be taught in the class.

The five Disciple-Making TOOLS are designed to be taught alongside the studies to transform the Bible study experience from “transferring knowledge” to “making disciples.” “The Power of Conversion,” explains God’s role in converting people so that we can understand our role better. “The Power of Purposeful Questions” helps the disciple-maker to recognize the value of asking questions, as Jesus did, helping people learn to understand the scriptures better on their own. “The Power of Friendship” emphasizes the need to love people as Jesus did when we study the Bible with them, building a Christian “one-another” friendship. “The Power of Your Personal Story” helps the disciple-maker appreciate and prepare to concisely and accurately share how God has worked in their lives. “The Power of Speaking Effectively” underscores the need for disciple-makers to share the gospel persuasively, with conviction and urgency.

We recommend that you start each STUDY with a prayer and that you implement the practical aspects of the Disciple-Making TOOLS to better imitate Jesus’ method of making disciples. These studies are not meant to be a formula; people cannot be converted by simply “going through studies.” God converts people’s hearts as they get to know him better through his Word and his family. Each study helps lay a foundational conviction that will help them progress toward the ultimate decision to make Jesus the Lord of their life and become a Christian. STUDY 1 helps people decide that the Bible is the Word of God and to make the Bible the standard for their lives. STUDY 2 illustrates Jesus’ call to discipleship and how that is different than just being religious. STUDY 3 provides specifics on the areas a person will need to change (sin) followed by STUDY 4, which shows God’s plan for changing our lives (repentance). STUDIES 5 and 6 may be combined as they examine what the Bible teaches about baptism and how to refute many of the false doctrines taught today.

## LEVEL 2 COURSE OVERVIEW

	<u>Class Title</u>	<u>Memory Verse</u>
STUDY 1:	The Word	2 Timothy 3:16-17
STUDY 2:	Discipleship	Luke 9:23
STUDY 3:	Sin	Romans 3:23
STUDY 4:	Repentance	Acts 26:20b
STUDY 5:	Baptism 1	Romans 6:3-4
STUDY 6:	Baptism 2/False Doctrines	Test
<i>Disciple-Making Tool 1:</i>	<i>The Power of Understanding Conversion</i>	
<i>Disciple-Making Tool 2:</i>	<i>The Power of Purposeful Questions</i>	
<i>Disciple-Making Tool 3:</i>	<i>The Power of Friendship</i>	
<i>Disciple-Making Tool 4:</i>	<i>The Power of Your Personal Story</i>	



*Disciple-Making Tool 5:*

*The Power of Speaking Effectively*





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## STUDY 1: THE WORD OF GOD

*Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ. (Romans 10:17)*

This study is designed to help a seeker recognize the Bible as God's Word and choose to make the Bible the ultimate authority in their life. The Word Study can be one of, if not the, most important topic someone will study because it lays the foundation. When people start reading the Bible, it will build their faith and conviction. When they accept the Bible as their standard, they will eventually become disciples of Jesus! Never forget the power of the Word of God to alter a person's faith and eternal destiny.

**Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 3:16-17**

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

**OPENING QUESTION:** *How much does scripture influence you on a daily basis? Why?*

### **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

- Where does all scripture come from?
  - If every single word in the Bible comes from God, how important does that make it?
  - Should anything or anyone compete for authority in your life with God's Word?
- What should the Bible be used to do?
  - *Teaching* – transfer knowledge or understanding
  - *Rebuking* – to expose, bring something to the light
  - *Correcting* – the other side of rebuking, to set on a correct path
  - *Training in righteousness* – leading to an obedient lifestyle; becoming like Jesus
- What does it mean that the Bible makes us “*thoroughly equipped for every good work*”?
  - We do not need self-help books or traditions to become what God wants us to be!
  - Do you consistently apply the Bible in these ways in your life?
  - Are you willing to apply the Bible like this throughout these Bible Studies?
- ***Do you believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God?***

### **Hebrews 4:12-13**

- What does this scripture teach about the Word of God?
  - *Living and active* – the Bible is relevant today and meant to be applied in our lives.
  - *Sharper than a double-edged sword* – it cuts with scalpel-like precision.
  - *It judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart* – the Bible will expose and judge us.
- ***Are you willing to allow God's Word to expose and help you?***

### **Matthew 15:1-9 (or Mark 7:5-13)**

- What was Jesus' attitude about traditions when they contradict the Word of God?
  - Scripture supersedes tradition, creeds, and feelings.
  - Worship in tradition is “*in vain*” – it “*nullifies*” the value of the Bible.
- ***Are you willing to accept Scripture as your standard, over church tradition, family tradition, your own feelings?***

### 1 Timothy 4:15-16

- Which is more important, life or doctrine?
  - Illustration: Which wing on an airplane is the most important?
  - Both life and doctrine should be watched closely.
- How important is it for our life and doctrine to align with the Bible?
  - It determines our salvation and helps us impact those around us.
- *Does your life and doctrine align with the Bible? If not, what needs to change?*

### Acts 17:10-11

- How does the Bible describe the Berean's response?
  - *Noble* – a character worthy of imitation.
  - *Great eagerness* – a proactive attitude, “I want to study the Bible.”
  - *Examined the scriptures* – indicates a depth of study beyond just reading.
  - *Every day* – This became a habit for them.
- *What would it look like for you to imitate them?*
  - Eagerly examine the Bible every day and let it teach, rebuke, correct, and train you in some way every time you read it.
  - Let's set up a time to have quiet time together!

### OTHER HELPFUL PASSAGES

#### John 12:48

- At the judgment day, what will be our judge?
  - The Word of God will judge us; not our thoughts, pastors, family, or friends.
  - The Bible is the ultimate authority.
- *Do you accept the Bible as your standard?*

#### John 8:31-32

- Who was Jesus speaking to?
  - People who “believed” him.
- What was Jesus challenge to those who believed him?
  - *If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.*
  - “Belief” alone is not enough; obedience is what makes us true followers of Jesus.
- *How does this apply to us?*
  - Sincerity does not equal truth. A sincere person can be wrong. When a sincerely wrong person meets truth they either: stop being wrong or stop being sincere.

#### 2 Peter 1:20-21

- According to this scripture, what role did God/man have in writing the Bible?
  - The Holy Spirit inspired the men who wrote the books of the Bible.
  - Our goal should always be to understand what God intended the text to convey.
  - We can't just say, “that's your interpretation” – God means what he says.

## STUDY 2: DISCIPLESHIP

Jesus called men to follow, to imitate him, to become his disciple. This study addresses common misconceptions about following Jesus, describes true discipleship, and inspires us to answer the true call of Jesus!

**Memory Verse: Luke 9:23**

*Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."*

**OPENING QUESTION: How would you define a "Christian"? How about a "disciple"?**

**Acts 11:25-26**

- What is the difference, if any, between a disciple and a Christian?
  - How many times is the word Christian used in NT (3)? How about disciple (270)?
  - A disciple and a Christian are the same!
  - Christian, "little Jesus," or "like Jesus" was meant to be derogatory.
- What is the difference between being called "Christians" and "like Jesus"?
  - Being a Christian is supposed to mean that you are trying to live like Jesus.
- **Let's discover how the Bible describes a Christian by looking at the term "disciple"**

**Matthew 28:18-20**

- What was Jesus' final command to his disciples?
  - "Go make disciples" – Jesus commanded his disciples to Go (initiate)... make disciples (replicate).
- What were Jesus' instructions for making disciples?
  - "Baptizing them" – the journey begins with a decision to be a disciple.
  - "Teaching them to obey everything I commanded you" – the training continues.
- Jesus plan involved multiplication – disciples make disciples who make disciples.
- **Who is teaching (discipling) you? Who are you discipling?**

**Adding or Multiplying?**

- Make 10 disciples each year for 30 years = **300**
- Make one disciple who multiplies every year for 30 years = **1 Billion!**

**Mark 1:14-18**

- What was Jesus' call for the first disciples?
  - "Follow me" – we are called to imitate the heart, actions, and purpose of Jesus.
  - "I will send you out to fish for people" – our mission is to make disciples.
- **Are you a fisher of people (a disciple maker)? Who have you helped make a disciple?**

**Luke 9:23-26**

- Who was Jesus speaking to? "if anyone" – applies to anyone who wants to follow him.
- What was Jesus' calling for "anyone" who wants to be a disciple?
  - "must" implies that if you don't do this you are NOT a disciple (Christian).
  - "deny yourself, take up your cross daily and follow me."
- **What does this mean for you?**
  - Denial of sin/selfishness, daily commitment, and following Christ.

### **Luke 14:25-33**

- How did Jesus change his message when he was dealing with “crowds”?
  - *“If anyone comes to me”* – Jesus had the same expectations for every individual.
- What areas of commitment did Jesus address?
  - *“hate his father, mother, wife and children”* – unrivaled love. (*Matthew 10:37*)
  - *“even his own life”* – more than you love yourself!
  - *“carry your cross and follow me”* – willing to be persecuted and die.
  - *“estimate the cost”* – understand what you are getting into.
  - *“terms of peace”* – in war, this means absolute surrender.
  - *“everything you have”* – these are the terms of peace!
- ***Have you ever counted the cost and decided to follow Jesus?***

### **John 13:34-35**

- What characteristic did Jesus expect his followers to be recognized for?
  - *“love one another”* – our lives are characterized by our relationships with one another.
  - *“as I have loved you”* – Jesus set an example; we are to imitate that level of love.
- ***How does loving others change you?***
  - We learn how to be like Christ through our relationships with other Christians – we learn to love, forgive, work together, etc.
  - We are not called to be alone (no “Lone Ranger” Christians!) but to be in community.

### **CONCLUSION**

- Going back over the notes, what characteristics does the Bible use to describe a disciple?
  - An initiator, baptized, taught to obey, fisher of people, imitator of Christ...
  - Denies self, carries cross daily, gives up everything and known for love of others...
- Based on these scriptures, how many true disciples (Christians) are in the world?
  - Are you a disciple (Christian) according to the Bible’s definition?
  - Do you want to be a true disciple (Christian) of Jesus?
  - What do you need to do to become a disciple?

### **OTHER HELPFUL PASSAGES**

**Luke 9:57-62** Example of the practical costs of following Jesus.

**Luke 11:1-4**

- Jesus taught his disciples to pray and have a relationship with God.
- Disciples are always learning.

Disciples live out the greatest commands: *love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and love your neighbor as yourself. (Matthew 22:36-40)*



## STUDY 3: SIN

**The Problem** at the heart of most issues in this world is sin. The Problem is the sin in mankind and not mankind itself. The purpose of this study is to biblically define sin, reveal who has sinned, and define the consequences of sin. Before we talk about the Solution, we need to discuss the Problem.

As you study these scriptures with your friend, be sure to build the kind of relationship where you are open about your struggles and they feel safe in being honest with you. The Sin study should not be an inquisition or confession session. The goal is to identify God's view of sin so that we can correct our view of sin and prepare our hearts to enter into an open, honest, and real relationship with God that includes being open, honest, and real with other Christians.

*Memory Verse: Romans 3:23*

*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*

**OPENING QUESTION:** *What do you think stops most people from becoming Christians?*

### WHO HAS SINNED?

*Romans 3:23*

- "All have sinned" – No one can make it to heaven on their own goodness. All are lost.
- Definition of sin: to miss the mark (archery: miss the bull's-eye; miss perfection).
- *Analogy:* If each of us was to pile up our sin – one huge pile, one small
  - Who is further away from God? All are equal; all are lost; no degrees of sin.
- *Analogy:* if each of us attempted to swim to Hawaii, who would get closest?
  - Doesn't matter because we would all drown. We can't make it on our own.
- A good moral life is not enough to save us.

### WHAT IS SIN?

#### Sins of Commission

*Mark 7:20-23*

- What types of sins is Jesus addressing?
  - Sins of the heart: sinful thoughts and attitudes.
  - Sin comes from our heart (not from upbringing, genes, social pressures, etc.).
- Who is responsible for these sins? We each have personal responsibility.

*Galatians 5:19-21*

- What types of sins is Paul addressing? Sinful actions – they are "obvious"
  - *Share:* what sins have been most challenging for you?
- What is the consequence of living like this?
  - If we live like this, we have no hope of heaven.

#### Sins of Omission

*James 4:17*

- What types of sins is James addressing?
  - Omission: failing to do the right things God commands.
- *What is an example of a sin of omission?*



## WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN?

*Romans 6:23* "the wages of sin is death" – we get what we earned/ deserve.

*Isaiah 59:1-2* "your iniquities [sins] have separated you from your God..."



- How does sin separate us from God?
  - He is able to save / hear – he's close and wants a relationship with us...
  - But our sin creates a wall that separates us from God.
- How does sin separate us from others / those we love?
  - Pride/hatred/resentments/anger/prejudice/selfishness/lying/etc.
  - Hurts caused by sin hinder marriages and families to be close and loving; friendships become superficial.
- How does sin separate us from ourselves?
  - Depression, guilt, not liking ourselves, feeling sorry for ourselves, hopelessness, feeling unloved, feeling meaningless, etc.
- Since sin is what separates us from God (and people, and ourselves)...
  - *How do you think God feel about sin? How should we feel about sin?*

## QUESTION: WHERE DO I STAND IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?

- Are you in a right relationship with God or separated from God?
  - Clearly man's greatest Problem is sin.
  - Clearly man's greatest need is forgiveness.
- *Challenge*
  - Spend time this week better understanding which sins are the most difficult for you.
  - *What do you think will be the toughest sins to change or give up?*
- In the next few studies we will study **the Solution**: forgiveness of sins.
  - God's Part – the Cross (See Level 3, DOCTRINE 2)
  - Our Part – Repentance & Baptism

## OTHER HELPFUL PASSAGES

### *Luke 7:36-50*

- The woman does anything and everything possible to love Jesus; she risks her life, lowers herself completely, and sacrifices massively; but Simon does nothing!
  - How did Simon the Pharisee see himself?
  - How did the woman see herself? How do you know?
  - How did the woman view her sin? How did Simon view his?
- What does Jesus say will result from us clearly seeing our sin? We will love more!
- *Is your response more like Simon or the woman?*
  - *How does that affect your relationship with God?*
- If you have never seen your sin in this way before, take an inventory of your sin to see the true debt you have between you and God.

*2 Timothy 3:1-5* – internal heart sin, selfishness – aimed more at religious people.

*Ephesians 5:3-7* – sexual sin, worldliness – the right attitude: "not even a hint."

*Revelations 21:8* – lying and cowardice are enough to send us to hell.

## STUDY 4: REPENTANCE

The previous study identified The Problem in our relationship with God: Sin. Before studying our part in the Solution (Repentance and Baptism) it is good to study God's part of the Solution: the Cross (Level 3, DOCTRINE 2), which will emphasize the power of the gospel and the extent of God's love. Our part in the Solution (Repentance and Baptism) should be a gift to someone who truly understands the gospel: where we stand before God because of Sin and how much God loves us through the Cross.

Repentance is one of the greatest gifts God offers man – a chance to have a true change, a new start. However, due to many misconceptions, some people have a negative understanding that treats repentance as some form of penance (what you do to make up for your sin) combined with a heavy sorrow that makes Christianity more like a dragged-out apology than the joyful reconciliation of a beloved child to their parent. This study should establish a biblical definition of repentance, correct misunderstandings, and describe true repentance.

**Memory Verse: Acts 26:20b**

*I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds.*

### OPENING QUESTION

*What do you believe repentance means or looks like? Why is repentance important?*

#### 1) WHO NEEDS REPENTANCE?

*Luke 13:1-5*

- Who does Jesus say should repent? Everyone must repent.
  - All have the same SIN problem.
  - No matter how religious, successful, or "good" they are.
- What is the choice Jesus gave each of us? Repent OR Perish.

#### 2) WHAT IS REPENTANCE?

*Acts 26:20-21* – What do you learn about repentance from this scripture?

- **Definition:** Metanoia (Greek) means "mind-change"; to **turn, surrender**, make Jesus Lord.
- Repentance is the **message** preached by Paul, Jesus, John, and the prophets.
- Repentance is **demonstrated by deeds** – your life reflects the change.
- Repentance **leads to opposition**. Some do not want to change. Many do not appreciate being told the truth about their lives.
- Repentance is a **POSITIVE command** – become what we were created to be – like Jesus.
- Repentance is an **ONGOING command** – an ongoing attitude. Can be done in an instant, though its effects can last a lifetime.

*2 Corinthians 7:8-11* – What is the difference between worldly and godly sorrow?

- **Describe "worldly sorrow"**
  - Repentance is NOT the same as being sorry.
  - Worldly sorrow is being sorry you were caught in a bad situation.
  - Example: Speeding – worldly: you don't change, you'll be speeding again soon.

- Describe “godly sorrow”
  - Leads to repentance which brings salvation (repentance comes before salvation!).
  - Example: You or your girlfriend gets pregnant. Not just sorry about the consequences. Godly sorrow says, “I will never be immoral again.”
  - Review each characteristic of godly sorrow: no regrets, produces an obvious change in character and lifestyle. You can tell if someone has really repented!

#### **Mark 9:42-48**

- How would you describe Jesus’ attitude toward sin?
  - Repentance is radical – a radical attitude toward sin...
  - Analogy: if you get cancer what type of attitude would you have?
- What is a typical attitude about sin today? “Sin is okay in moderation.”
- What is God’s attitude about sin? “Sin is always horrible – deal with it radically!”

#### **Acts 3:19-20**

- How would you describe repentance from this scripture?
  - *so that your sins may be wiped out* – repentance is necessary for forgiveness of sins.
  - *that times of refreshing may come from the Lord* – once we repent, there will be times of refreshing (repentance feels good!).

### **3) APPLICATION**

- Do you know people who have repented?
- Have you ever repented like this?
- Do you want to repent like this?
- What do you need to repent of?

### **OTHER HELPFUL PASSAGES**

#### **Acts 2:36-41**

- How would you describe these first Christian’s repentance?
  - They understood the consequences of their sin and what it did to Jesus on the cross.
  - When our hearts are cut by the Cross we are ready to whatever it takes to fix things.
  - Repentance is a necessary part of our response in God’s solution! Therefore, we need to make sure we know exactly what it should look like in our lives.
  - Repentance (with baptism) leads to forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

#### **John 3:3**

- How does this scripture describe a person who has repented?
  - Born again: Repentance is not making changes in life, but becoming a new person.
  - Being born again means you have become a new creation. (2 Corinthians 5:17)
  - Repentance changes our lives and not just our habits.

## STUDY 5: BAPTISM 1

Conversion begins with faith that recognizes who God is and understands the gospel message. At that point, the seeker clearly sees their need for God (Sin), understands the power of the gospel to save them (Cross), and decides to turn to God and surrender, making Jesus Lord (Repentance). When the person you are studying with reaches this conviction, it is time to help them understand the gift of baptism. This study establishes the biblical truth of the role of baptism in salvation and how it impacts our relationship with God.

**Memory Verse: Romans 6:3-4**

*Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*

**OPENING QUESTION:** *What is the significance of baptism in a person's life?*

### John 3:1-7

- What was Jesus trying to explain to Nicodemus?
  - You must be born of water and the Spirit to see (enter) the Kingdom of heaven.
  - Being born again, like being born, is a single event that takes place at a specific time.

### Acts 2:22-24,36-40

- What did these people come to believe about Jesus?
  - Jesus died for their sins and rose from the dead (22-24).
  - They were responsible for his death (v.37).
- What did Peter tell them they needed to do to respond?
  - *Repent* – turn to God, ready to do things his way, surrender, making Jesus Lord.
  - *Be baptized* – (Greek – baptizo) means “to immerse or dip.”
- What is the significance of baptism?
  - *for the forgiveness of sins* – brings reconciliation in our relationship with God.
  - *receive the Holy Spirit* – God seals his relationship with us, giving us His Spirit.
- **Analogy:** a check means nothing unless it is signed. Baptism means nothing without faith and repentance. It is not a work to go cash a check! Baptism does not earn salvation by works, but it is part of God's plan for our salvation.

### Romans 6:1-5

- What does this scripture teach about baptism?
  - “*All of us who were baptized*” – everyone in the church at Rome was baptized.
  - “*baptized into his death... buried*” – they participated in Jesus' death and burial.
  - “*as Christ was raised from the dead... we may live a new life*” – shared in his resurrection.
  - Baptism is where someone's life intersects with the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.
  - “*baptized into Christ*” – baptism is how we get into Christ.

**Baptized into Christ**

*The Bible never says you can*

- *faith into Christ*
- *believe into Christ*
- *repent into Christ*
- *confess into Christ*
- *accept into Christ*
- *or pray into Christ*

*The Bible ONLY says you can be baptized into Christ!*

- **Summary of Romans 6:1-5**
  - We are dead in our sin as Jesus is dead on the cross.
  - We are buried in baptism as Jesus is buried in the tomb.
  - We come out to a new life the same way Jesus rose to life.

### **1 Peter 3:21**

- What does this scripture teach about baptism?
  - *"baptism now saves you"* – in the same way water separated the living and the dead during Noah's time, it now separates the spiritually living and spiritually dead.
  - *"the pledge of a clear conscience toward God"* – baptism cleanses us before God.
  - *"It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ"* - Baptism is not a work, done outside of God's grace. It is how we receive the saving power of the resurrection of Jesus.

### **Colossians 2:11-12**

- What does this scripture teach about baptism?
  - Baptism is a work done by JESUS and not at all by human hands, not a work of men.
  - *"raised with him through your faith in the working of God"* – baptism requires faith in God's work.

### **Acts 22:6-16**

- How can you tell from this scripture that baptism was necessary?
  - Paul had seen Jesus, had spoken with Jesus, had fasted for 3 days, had completely changed his mindset towards Jesus (repentance), and even had his eyes miraculously healed. Yet, he still had not had his sins washed away.
  - *"And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on His name."*
  - It was at baptism that his sins were washed away.

### **CONCLUSION**

- What did you learn about the purpose of baptism?
- Have you ever been baptized like this?
  - Do you want to be baptized like this?
  - What is in the way of you getting baptized?
- When do you want to get baptized?
  - Urgency shows recognition of what baptism does for us!

### **OTHER HELPFUL PASSAGES**

**Matthew 28:18-20** – Baptism involves discipleship.

**Mark 16:16** – *"Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved..."*

**Ephesians 4:4-6** – There is one baptism; baptism is one of the key teachings of the church.



## STUDY 1: BAPTISM 2 / FALSE DOCTRINES

There are many false teachings about conversion, including baptism. This study introduces some of the most common misconceptions to provide context that will help to clear up the misunderstanding and correctly interpret the related texts. The Bible is very clear in its teaching about the purpose of baptism. You may recommend to anyone with questions about baptism to examine at all of the verses in the Bible with the word baptism, asking the question, “what is the purpose of baptism?”

### OPENING QUESTION

*Do you have any questions about baptism, forgiveness of sins, and conversion?*

### FALSE DOCTRINES

#### 1) Baptism is just a “Symbol” or an “Outward Sign of an Inward Grace”

- Does the Bible ever call baptism a symbol?
  - *Romans 6:1-4* – Baptism is a sharing or participation in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. The Bible never calls baptism a sign or a symbol.
- Does anything actually happen during baptism or is it just a sign?
  - *Acts 2:38* – God forgives sins and gives the Holy Spirit through baptism.
  - *Galatians 3:26-27* – we become clothed with Christ and children of God at baptism.

#### 2) Infant Baptism and Original Sin

- What is the difference between infant baptism and adult baptism?
  - True conversion requires personal faith (*Colossians 2:12*).
  - The Bible contains no examples of infant baptism; it was popular in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century.
- What does the Bible teach about “original sin”?
  - “Original sin” teaches that we are born with the guilt of Adam’s sin.
  - There is no scripture that teaches original sin (*Psalms 51* is poetry).
  - *Ezekiel 18:20* refutes this doctrine saying we are responsible for our own sin.

#### 3) Pray Jesus Into Your Heart

- Is there any example of conversion by saying a prayer (without baptism)? NO!
  - Conversion requires faith, repentance, and baptism for forgiveness of sins (*Acts 2:38*)
  - *Revelation 3:20* in context, addresses a church: Christians who have already responded to Christ in faith, repentance, and baptism. It does not teach how to become a Christian, but how to come back to God after becoming lukewarm.

#### 4) Accept Jesus as Your Savior

- Can you be saved by accepting Jesus as savior without making him Lord (repentance) or being baptized?
  - *Romans 10:9* is to Jews whose primary issue was their need to confess Jesus as Lord.
  - *Romans 6:1-4* has already stated the need for baptism in the same Letter.
  - *Acts 2:38* explains that Jesus must be both Lord and Savior (Messiah) and that our response is not simply to ask for a savior but to repent and be baptized.

### Review of Biblical Conversion

- HEAR - *Romans 10:17*
- BELIEVE - *Mark 16:16, Romans 10:9*
- REPENT - *Acts 2:38, Luke 13:3*
- CONFESS - *Romans 10:9, Acts 22:16*
- BE BAPTIZED - *Acts 2:38, 1 Peter 3:21*

## 5) Baptism Is a Work

- Is faith, confession, repentance, baptism, or staying faithful a work that saves us?
  - We are not saved by what we do. Our faith and deeds work together (*James 2:14,24*).
  - Jesus taught that obedience to his commands is a demonstration of our love for God (*John 14:15,23*).
  - It doesn't make sense to single out baptism as a work more than believing (*John 6:28-29*), repentance, confessing Jesus as Lord, or obeying Jesus' commands.
  - *Colossians 2:12* says we are saved by FAITH in the WORKING OF GOD at baptism. God is the one who at work in baptism.... not man. The strongest way to say not a work done by man is: "...circumcision not performed by human hands."

## 6) The Thief On The Cross was Saved without Baptism

- Was the thief on the cross saved under the New or the Old Covenant?
  - The New Covenant went into effect after the resurrection of Christ – the thief on the cross died under the Old Covenant (OC)!
  - *Mark 2:10* – Jesus had the ability to forgive sins while he was on earth.
  - John's baptism (OC) was also for repentance and forgiveness of sins (*Luke 3:3*).
  - Jesus taught his disciples how to make disciples under the New Covenant – "he who believes and is baptized will be saved" (*Mark 16:16, see also Matt. 28:19 and Acts 2:38*).

## 7) Believers Baptism

- Can a person be saved by something that they don't believe is for salvation?
  - Believers baptism is baptism as an adult, but it is not in conjunction with the understanding that one is being saved at this point in time.
  - *Acts 19:1-6* – Retroactive understanding is not sufficient for salvation. Understanding is vital for baptism to have its intended effect.

## 8) Baptism Does Not Save You

- Is there any place in the Bible where it says that baptism saves you?
  - *1 Peter 3:21* – baptism DOES save you through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
  - *Mark 16:16* – "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved."

## CONCLUSIONS

- Baptism literally means immersion and is part of the conversion process.
- God established his plan for saving people under the New Covenant: Preach the gospel, explaining the love of God demonstrated through the cross and calling people to repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of their sins and to receive the Holy Spirit.
- By faith, baptism is an actual participation in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.
- A candidate for baptism should have faith in Jesus as both Lord and Christ, be ready to repent of their sins, decide to become a disciple and make Jesus Lord – therefore it is for adults who understand why they are doing it.
- Baptism saves us through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- Faith, repentance, confession, or baptism should not be considered works that earn us salvation, but rather our response in faith to God's gift of salvation offered through Jesus.



## TOOL 1: THE POWER OF UNDERSTANDING CONVERSION

The purpose of this TOOL is to help you understand how God is working in a person’s life so that you will better understand your role in sharing your faith with them. To accomplish this, you must understand your spiritual state before and after conversion and recognize how the Holy Spirit works.

*The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:4-6)*

The Before and After Picture of Conversion	
<u>Before Conversion</u>	<u>After Conversion</u>
<i>What are some words that described you before you became a disciple?</i>	<i>What words describe you after you became a disciple?</i>
<b>Romans 1:18-21,28-32</b> godless, wicked, evil, greedy, depraved, God-haters, insolent, arrogant, without understanding	<b>Romans 6:6</b> no longer slaves to sin
<b>Ephesians 2:1-3</b> dead in sin, deserving God’s wrath	<b>Ephesians 2:4-5</b> alive in Christ, seated at the table with him in the heavenly realms
<b>Ephesians 4:17-19</b> darkened understanding, separated from the life of God, ignorant, hardened hearts	<b>Ephesians 4:21-24</b> made new in your minds; a new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

- We tend to **over**-estimate ourselves before conversion & **under**-estimate ourselves after!
- How does Christ take someone who is **dead in sin** and make them **alive in Him**?
- How can the Scriptures reach our friends when *“the god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel”*?!?
- The Holy Spirit must shine his light into their hearts through Jesus!

### THE HOLY SPIRIT’S ROLE (John 16:6-7)

- Prove: *“he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment.”*
- The World: any and everyone in the darkness of sin, righteousness, and judgment.
- Convict: to confront someone in a way that produces an eye-opening experience that helps them understand their current condition; *“prove... to be in the wrong.”*

### OUR ROLE (1 Corinthians 3:5-9)

- Our role is to plant and water seeds. God’s role is to make them grow! The pressure is not on you to convert someone!
- Given what we just learned about the Holy Spirit's role, God's role, and our role...
- *How does this change the way you pursue evangelism?*

#### Overview of Biblical Conversion

- HEAR - Romans 10:17
- BELIEVE - Mark 16:16, Romans 10:9
- REPENT - Acts 2:38, Luke 13:3
- CONFESS / PROCLAIM - Romans 10:9, Acts 22:16
- BAPTISM - Acts 2:38, 1 Peter 3:21

## TOOL 2: THE POWER OF PURPOSEFUL QUESTIONS

Purposeful questions are meant to draw out somebody's heart by engaging them and their minds and their lives, rather than simply teaching facts and truths. This TOOL is designed to help you become better at asking good questions – imitating Jesus' example!

*The purposes of a person's heart are deep waters,  
but one who has insight draws them out. (Proverbs 20:5)*

### JESUS ASKED QUESTIONS

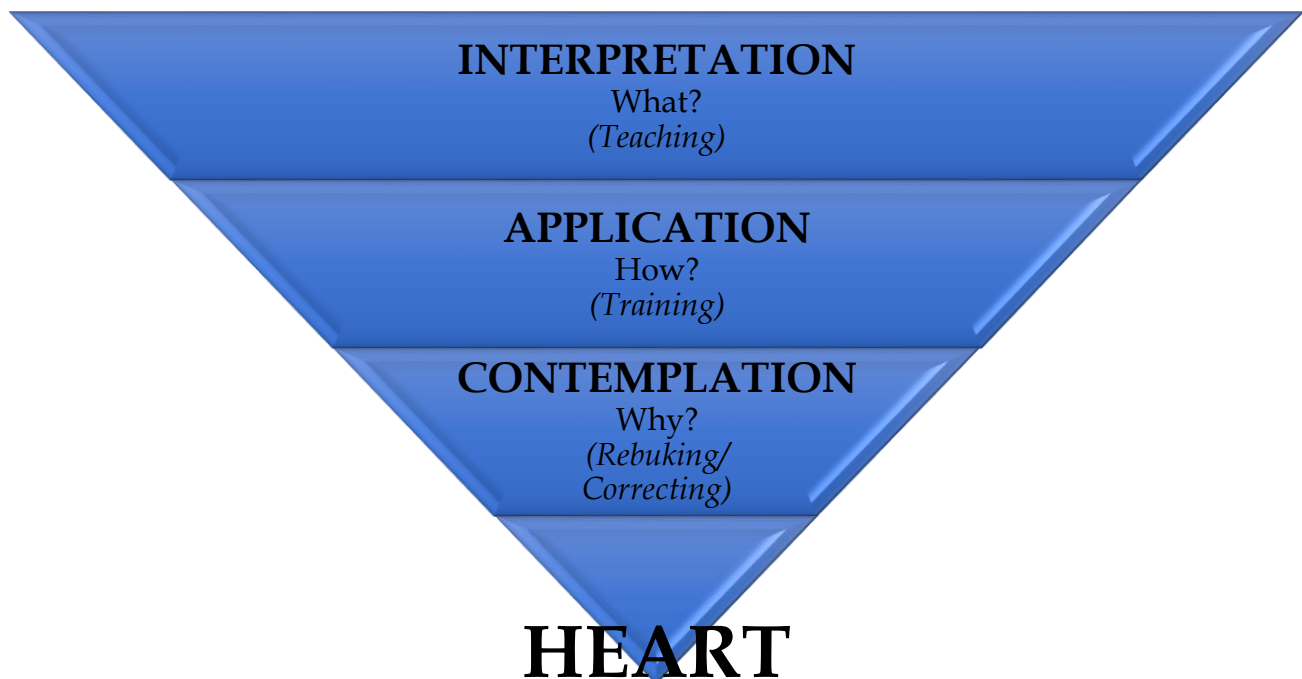
Questions connect our heart so much more than statements of teaching or passion. They create critical and internal thinking.

*"The bigger debtor will love him more" or "Now which of them will love him more?" (Luke 7:40)*

*"Caesar's image and inscription is on this coin" or "Whose image and inscription are on it?" (Luke 20:24)*

### HOW? The Purposeful Questions Wedge

- Start with broad questions then bring the answers to a point that can get to the heart!
- The broader teaching allows a seeker to get invested and understand the scripture. As it comes to a point, it is then able to go from their brain and into their hearts!



### HOW WE'RE MEANT TO USE THE BIBLE

- The Word is useful for: *teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training.* (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

## TOOL 3: THE POWER OF FRIENDSHIP

Life is about relationships. People all want friendship. Jesus was a friend of sinners, whether they responded to God's call to discipleship or not. If we imitate Jesus, we will also befriend people in a way that can reflect God's love for them and maybe open them up to God's word.

*The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But wisdom is proved right by her deeds. (Matthew 11:19)*

### Jesus was a Friend of Sinners

- We may not be tax collectors, but we are all sinners!
- In being like Jesus, we, too, should be "a friend of sinners."
- Jesus was willing to be uncomfortable, to relate to people and win their friendship. He gave up being in heaven with God, to take on the limitations of human flesh.
  - What was it about Jesus that non-religious people felt drawn to?
  - Even the religious felt comfortable enough to question him, challenge him, and have him over for dinner.

### Two Potential Traps

1. Spending so much time with *sinners* that his back would be turned to *righteous*.  
OR
2. Spending so much time with *righteous* that his back would be turned to *sinners*.

### Jesus knew how to Build Connections Through Friendships

- He spent quality time with his friends... it was fun to be Jesus' friend!
  - Hiking (*Matthew 17:1*)
  - Fishing (*Luke 5:4*)
  - Sailing (*Matthew 8:23*)
  - Dinner parties (*Matthew 9:10, Luke 7:36, John 12:2*)
  - Weddings (*John 2:1*) - he even brought out the best wine in the end!
  - Even water-skiing... without a boat, or a motor, or skis (*Matthew 14:25*)
- Jesus knew how to have fun. He had bonding times together and created memories.
- HOW a person feels about you is based on the memories they have with you.
- Let's imitate Jesus and realize that there is Power in Friendships!

### CHALLENGES

- As disciples, we should constantly be building friendships.
- Building a friendship with the person who is seeking God helps them to see Jesus in us and find a safe place for them to open up and explore their faith.
- Friendships are our opportunity live out the "one another" Bible passages.

## TOOL 4: THE POWER OF YOUR PERSONAL STORY

The purpose of this TOOL is to help you think through and practice telling your personal conversion story in a way that communicates the power of God working in your life. Your story is powerful, not because of you, but because of God. God is also working in the lives of the people we are studying with and they are trying to figure out their story. People want to hear a personal story of how God changed your life. Practice telling your story so that you can use an appropriate level of detail whether you have 2 minutes, 5 minutes, or 15 minutes to share!

*You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. (2 Corinthians 3:2)*

### Paul's Story

Luke, the author of Acts, must have heard Paul's conversion story so many times, he could recite it from memory. He included it three times in his account of the early church: *Acts 9:1-19, Acts 22:1-16, Acts 26:4-18. What do you notice in each one?*

1. *Acts 9:1-19* The original version. Shows Paul as the overly religious persecutor who had to be humbled by God so that he would listen to a disciple. God chose him to suffer!
2. *Acts 22:1-21* Paul told his story when he shared his faith. He made himself known – his pride, zeal, wickedness to persecute Christians, the helplessness he felt when he came to know the truth, and his personal calling from God.
3. *Acts 26:1-23* Paul adapted his story to fit the situation. He related to Agrippa by emphasizing his Jewish upbringing and opposition to Jesus. He showed that Jesus fulfilled the promise given the Jews. He preached the gospel – death and resurrection.

### Your Story

Write out your story.

What did God do to get your attention? What struggles did God use to humble you? What miracles do you remember from your conversion? How did God use people in your life? When did you come to a conviction about the Bible, Jesus, sin, repentance, or conversion? What drew you to fall in love with God and Jesus? How did you make your decision to become a disciple? What obstacles did you have to overcome?

- Draft a short (2-minute) version and a longer (5 or 15-minute) version.
- Share your story! Share it often! Then keep sharing it!
- Friends know each other's life story. How many other disciples could re-tell your story?

*I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me (2 Cor. 12:9)*

### Role Play

- Share Conversion Stories with someone in class.
- Boast in your weakness.

## TOOL 5: THE POWER OF SPEAKING EFFECTIVELY

*At Iconium Paul and Barnabas went as usual into the Jewish synagogue.*

*There they spoke so effectively that a great number of Jews and Greeks believed. (Acts 14:1)*

- Our goal should be not just speaking, but speaking effectively. We can increase the likeliness of people accepting the message by speaking more effectively.
- We can be confident leading studies... but ineffective. We can transfer knowledge, but people can still walk away. Our goal should be to move people's hearts toward God.
- This is a learned skill, don't assume that you know it - imitate and learn from someone!
- When we speak effectively, hearts are moved.

What made men like Paul, Barnabas, Peter, Stephen, and others so powerful in speech?  
How did they speak so effectively?

### THREE ELEMENTS OF EFFECTIVE SPEECH USED IN ACTS

1. **Appeal to Credibility:** The credibility of the speaker or, "why should they listen to you?"

*Acts 22:1-4* How did Paul earn credibility?

- Spoke their language (used their verbiage) .
- Related to their upbringing ("I grew up believing \_\_\_" or having someone else there from the same background).
- Related even to their zealous opposition to the truth (telling people our own past doubts).

2. **Appeal to Emotion:** Use storytelling, metaphors, evoke emotion. People are more emotional or relational than rational.

*Acts 2:40* How did Peter appeal emotionally to his audience?

- In a study like baptism, the plead would be for them to be urgent about getting right with God.
- We should also plead out of our friendship with them.  
"You've come such a long way."  
"We've grown close as friends, and I really want you to see the truth in the scripture."  
"I remember being in your place, here were the thoughts going through my head."

3. **Appeal to Logic:** Use reasoning (logic) to make an argument.

*Acts 26:25-27* What Paul was saying was "true and reasonable."

- Example: "which wing of the airplane is more important, the right or the left?"
- The appeal is to make the decision about the truth not by emotion... or past teaching... not on sentimentality... but on what the Bible is clearly saying.

These are tools that we already use often. The goal is to be more intentional and more deliberate. As we grow in our ability to **speak effectively** the gospel, more and more hearts will turn to God!