

THE FOUNDRY

Complete 52-Week Discipleship Guide

LEADER'S QUICK REFERENCE

Weekly Flow Overview (60 minutes)

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

- Personal experience question connecting to the theme
- Gets everyone talking and builds trust
- No "right answers" - just authentic sharing

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

- Read the passage aloud (have different people read)
- Brief silent reflection
- Grounds the conversation in God's Word

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

- "What does the text actually say?"
- Keep focused on the passage itself
- Build the foundation before interpretation

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

- "What does this mean?"
- Explore principles and theological truth
- Connect Scripture to broader biblical themes

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

- **THIS IS THE HEART OF TRANSFORMATION**
- Create space for vulnerable, specific sharing
- If conversation is rich here, spend extra time

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

- Specific, measurable commitments
 - Optional: pair up for accountability
 - Close in prayer
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Leader Tips

Managing Time

- **Running short?** Skip or shorten observation questions with more mature groups
- **Running long?** That's often good! Rich application conversations are the goal
- **Stuck?** Ask "Can someone share an example from their life?"

Group Dynamics

- **Quiet group?** You share first to model vulnerability
- **One person dominating?** "That's great—let's hear from someone who hasn't shared yet"
- **Going off topic?** "That's interesting—let's bookmark that and come back to our passage"
- **Theological debate?** "Both views have merit—how does this apply to your life right now?"

Creating Safety

- Remind group: "What's shared here stays here"
- Model vulnerability in your own sharing
- Thank people for sharing: "Thanks for trusting us with that"
- Never force someone to share

Keeping Focus

- The goal is **life transformation**, not just information
 - Prioritize **application over explanation**
 - If you only have time for one section well, make it **Personal Application**
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Remember

- You don't need to have all the answers
- Your role is to facilitate, not lecture

- The Holy Spirit does the transforming work
 - Deep community happens through consistency and vulnerability
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WEEK 1: Introduction - What It Means to Be Used by God

Core Scripture: Jeremiah 18:1-6

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Build connection and introduce the theme

Think of a time when you felt like you were in a season of change or growth. What was that experience like? What made it challenging or meaningful?

Leader Tip: Since this is Week 1, consider doing brief introductions first (name, one interesting fact). Then move into this question. Model vulnerability by sharing your own story first.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

Jeremiah 18:1-6 *"This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: 'Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message.' So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him. Then the word of the Lord came to me. He said, 'Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?' declares the Lord. 'Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel.'"*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds to notice what word or phrase stands out to you.

Leader Tip: Have someone read the passage aloud. Consider reading it twice to let it sink in. This is a foundational week, so take your time with the text.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **What is happening in this passage? Describe the scene.**
2. **What does the potter do when the pot is "marred" or flawed?**
3. **What metaphor is God using here? Who is the potter, and who is the clay?**

Leader Tip: Keep the group focused on what's literally in the text. These questions build the foundation for deeper discussion.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **Why do you think God chose this particular metaphor of a potter and clay to describe His relationship with His people?**
2. **What does it mean that the potter "shaped it as seemed best to him"? What does this tell us about God's sovereignty and our surrender?**
3. **The pot was "marred" but not discarded. What does this reveal about how God works with our imperfections and failures?**

Leader Tip: Encourage wrestling with ideas. There's not always one "right" answer. Let the group explore together.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **When you think about God as a potter shaping your life, what specific area feels like it's "on the wheel" right now—being shaped or reshaped?**

2. **How do you see God shaping your life like a potter shapes clay? Can you identify specific ways He's been working on you?**
3. **What areas in your life need to be molded or reformed by Him? Where are you resisting His shaping work?**
4. **What would it look like for you to be more pliable "clay" in God's hands this week?**

Leader Tip: This is the heart of transformation. Create space for honest, vulnerable sharing. If someone shares something deep, thank them. Don't rush this section.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Pray daily this week**, asking God to reveal how He is shaping you
- **Write down** one area in your life that feels like "clay in progress"
- **Look for one practical way** to cooperate with His work in your life (perhaps an act of obedience or surrender)

Group Activity: Since this is Week 1, take a few minutes to discuss:

- How often will you meet?
- What are your group expectations for attendance, confidentiality, and participation?
- Will you have accountability partners?

Close in Prayer: Pray for openness to God's shaping work in each person's life this year.

Leader Note: Week 1 sets the tone for the entire year. Emphasize that this is a safe place for authenticity, growth, and transformation. Encourage everyone that God isn't looking for perfection—He's looking for willing clay.

WEEK 2: God's Purpose for Men

Core Scripture: Ephesians 2:10

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

Tell us about a time when you felt most "in your element"—doing something that made you feel alive and purposeful. What were you doing, and why did it resonate so deeply?

Leader Tip: This question helps people identify when they've experienced purpose, which sets up the conversation about God-given purpose.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

Ephesians 2:10 *"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. What word or phrase captures your attention?

Leader Tip: Though this is a short verse, it's packed with meaning. Consider reading it from 2-3 different translations to help the group hear it fresh.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **What does Paul call us in this verse? (What are we?)**
2. **What have we been created "in Christ Jesus" to do?**
3. **When were these good works prepared? What does "in advance" tell us?**

Leader Tip: The term "handiwork" in Greek is "poiema" (where we get "poem"). God is creating a masterpiece! You might mention this.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **What does it mean to be created for "good works"? How is this different from earning salvation through works?**
2. **If God prepared these works "in advance," what does that suggest about God's intentionality for your life?**
3. **How can you live intentionally in God's purpose? What would change about your daily life if you truly believed you were created with divine purpose?**

Leader Tip: This is a great place to discuss the balance between God's sovereignty (He prepared works) and human responsibility (we do them).

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **When have you felt most fulfilled in serving God or others? Looking back, do you see how God might have been preparing you for that?**
2. **What gift or passion do you have that you feel aligns with God's purpose for you? (It's okay if you're still discovering this!)**
3. **What does it mean to you personally that you are God's "handiwork"—His masterpiece? How does that change how you see yourself?**
4. **If you really believed God created you with specific good works in mind, what would you do differently this week?**

Leader Tip: Some people struggle to identify their gifts. Encourage the group to speak into each other's lives: "I see this gift in you..." This builds community.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Commit to using one of your gifts** to serve others this week (even in a small way)
- **Identify one passion or talent** you have and journal about how God might want to use it
- **Share your purpose discovery** with a trusted friend or mentor—get their input

Reflection Exercise: Complete this sentence and share with one person: "I believe God created me to..."

Close in Prayer: Thank God for creating each person with unique purpose and good works prepared in advance. Ask for eyes to see opportunities to walk in that purpose.

Leader Note: Purpose is a deep topic that many men struggle with. Some may feel they haven't found their purpose yet—affirm that discovery is part of the journey. God often reveals purpose progressively.

WEEK 3: Developing a Heart for God

Core Scripture: Psalm 51:10-12

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

Describe a person you know (or have known) who seems to have a genuine, vibrant relationship with God. What about them makes their faith feel authentic and attractive?

Leader Tip: This helps the group identify what a "heart for God" actually looks like in real life before diving into the Scripture.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

Psalm 51:10-12 *"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me."*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. Which phrase resonates most with where you are right now?

Leader Tip: This is David's prayer after his sin with Bathsheba was confronted by Nathan. You might briefly mention this context—it helps show that even "a man after God's own heart" needed heart renewal.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **What specific things does David ask God to create, renew, or restore in him?**
2. **What is David afraid of losing according to verse 11?**
3. **David asks for a "willing spirit" in verse 12. What do you think he means by that?**

Leader Tip: List out David's requests as the group identifies them: pure heart, steadfast spirit, God's presence, Holy Spirit, joy of salvation, willing spirit. There's a lot here!

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **Why does David ask God to "create" a pure heart rather than saying "I will make my heart pure"? What does this tell us about our role vs. God's role in transformation?**
2. **David asks God not to take His Holy Spirit away. What does this reveal about David's understanding of what matters most?**

3. Notice David mentions "joy" in verse 12. What's the connection between a pure heart and experiencing joy? Why does sin steal our joy?

Leader Tip: The Hebrew word for "create" (bara) is the same word used in Genesis 1:1 when God created the heavens and earth. Only God can do this kind of creating!

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. If you're honest, what areas of your heart feel distant from God right now? Where do you sense you need a "pure heart"?
2. What steps can you take to cultivate a pure heart before God? What does this look like practically in your daily life?
3. How can you recognize and follow the leading of God's Spirit? What helps you stay sensitive to His voice?
4. David prays for the "joy of salvation" to be restored. When have you felt that joy? What helps you recapture it when you've lost it?

Leader Tip: This requires vulnerability. The question about areas feeling distant from God might be uncomfortable—let silence sit if needed. Someone will eventually share, and others will follow.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Set aside time for personal worship** each day this week (even 5-10 minutes)
- **Memorize Psalm 51:10** to remind yourself of the importance of a pure heart
- **Confess one specific area** to God where you need Him to create a clean heart

Journaling Prompt: "God, the areas in my heart where I feel distant from You are... I need You to create in me..."

Close in Prayer: Pray Psalm 51:10-12 as a group prayer. Have each person pray one phrase aloud, or pray it in unison.

Leader Note: This week touches on sin, confession, and spiritual distance—sensitive topics. Create safety by modeling vulnerability yourself. Remind the group that God's response to honest confession is always grace and restoration.

WEEK 4: Humility and Dependence

Core Scripture: James 4:10

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

Tell us about a time when you had to admit you were wrong or ask for help. What made it difficult? How did it turn out?

Leader Tip: This primes the pump for talking about humility by connecting it to a real experience everyone has had.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

James 4:10 *"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up."*

Additional Context - Philippians 2:5-8: *"In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!"*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds to consider what true humility looks like.

Leader Tip: The Philippians passage provides the ultimate example of humility—Jesus. Reading both passages together gives fuller context.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. In James 4:10, what are we called to do? What does God promise in response?
2. In Philippians 2, what did Jesus give up or lay aside? What did He take on?
3. How far did Jesus' humility go according to Philippians 2:8?

Leader Tip: The contrast is stunning—Jesus was "in very nature God" yet became a servant and died a criminal's death. Let that sink in.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. What's the difference between humility and low self-esteem? How is biblical humility different from weakness?
2. James says "humble yourselves" (active) while also saying God will "lift you up" (passive). What does this tell us about our part and God's part?
3. Looking at Jesus' example in Philippians 2, what does it look like to humble yourself before God practically?
4. The passages mention dependence on God. How has pride hindered your relationship with God? What would change if you truly depended on Him?

Leader Tip: C.S. Lewis said, "Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it's thinking of yourself less." This might be worth sharing.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **Where in your life right now do you see pride showing up?** (This could be in relationships, work, parenting, your spiritual life, etc.)
2. **What makes humility difficult for you? What are you afraid might happen if you humble yourself?**
3. **Think about a specific situation this week where you need to depend more on God rather than your own strength. What would that look like practically?**
4. **Jesus "made himself nothing" and became a servant. Where is God calling you to serve rather than be served?**

Leader Tip: Pride is something we all wrestle with, but admitting it requires... humility! Model this by sharing your own struggles first.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Practice humility** by serving someone in need this week (look for specific opportunities)
- **Identify one area** where you've been self-reliant and consciously pray for God's help instead
- **Pray daily**, surrendering your plans and asking for God's guidance

Group Sharing: *Take 2 minutes in pairs: Share one time when humility led to spiritual growth in your life.*

Close in Prayer: Pray for God to reveal areas of pride and give each person courage to walk in humility.

Leader Note: Humility is counter-cultural, especially for men who are told to be self-sufficient. Emphasize that humility is strength, not weakness—it takes great strength to humble yourself.

WEEK 5: Surrendering to God's Plan

Core Scripture: Proverbs 3:5-6

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

Think of a time when your plans didn't work out the way you expected. Looking back, can you see any ways that God's plan was actually better than yours?

Leader Tip: This question helps people reflect on times when surrender (even forced surrender!) led to something good.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. Which phrase is hardest for you to live out?

Leader Tip: This is one of the most quoted verses in Scripture, but that doesn't make it easy to live. Ask which phrase challenges them most.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **What are we commanded to do in this passage? (List the active commands)**
2. **What are we commanded NOT to do?**
3. **What is God's promise if we trust and submit? What will He do?**

Leader Tip: There are actually 4 commands here: trust, lean not, submit (acknowledge), and the implied action of letting God direct. Make sure the group catches all of them.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **What does it mean to trust God with "all your heart"? What does partial trust look like vs. full trust?**
2. **"Lean not on your own understanding"—why is our own understanding insufficient? When is human wisdom helpful, and when does it become a limitation?**
3. **The passage says "in all your ways submit to him." What areas of life does "all" include? Are there areas we're tempted to exclude?**
4. **What does it mean that God will "make your paths straight"? Does this mean life will be easy?**

Leader Tip: "Making paths straight" doesn't mean obstacle-free; it means God provides direction and guidance. Clarify this misconception if it comes up.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **What areas of your life are difficult to trust God with right now? (Finances? Relationships? Career? Health? Family?)**
2. **Where are you currently relying on your own understanding instead of seeking God's wisdom? What makes you want to stay in control?**
3. **How can you actively acknowledge (submit to) Him in your decisions this week? What would that look like practically?**
4. **Think of a specific decision you're facing right now. What would it look like to surrender that completely to God's plan rather than forcing your own?**

Leader Tip: Question 4 is where rubber meets road. Encourage specific, practical sharing about current situations, not just theoretical discussion.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Identify one specific area** you've been holding onto and write a prayer surrendering it to God
- **Make one decision this week** that demonstrates your trust in God's plan (even if it feels risky)
- **Before making any significant decision**, pause and pray: "Lord, what is Your way in this?"

Personal Exercise: *Write down areas of your life where you feel resistance to surrendering to God. Pray through each one, asking God to help you release control.*

Share Your Journey: *Tell a trusted friend about one area you're learning to surrender. Ask them to check in with you.*

Close in Prayer: Surrender specific areas as a group. Have each person name one thing they're releasing to God's plan.

Leader Note: Surrender is perhaps the hardest thing for humans to do—we like control! Emphasize that surrendering to God is not giving up; it's trusting Someone more capable than ourselves. It's actually the wisest form of control.

WEEK 6: Faithfulness in Small Things

Core Scripture: Luke 16:10

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

What's one "small thing" you do regularly that most people don't notice, but you know matters? (This could be at home, work, or anywhere)

Leader Tip: This helps people recognize they're already practicing faithfulness in small ways, which sets up the biblical teaching.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

Luke 16:10 *"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much."*

Additional Context - Matthew 25:21: *"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'"*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. Where do you need to be more faithful in the "little"?

Leader Tip: The Matthew passage shows God's response to faithfulness in small things—increased responsibility and shared joy!

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

- 1. According to Luke 16:10, what is the connection between faithfulness in small things and faithfulness in large things?**
- 2. What two options does Jesus present? (Trusted/dishonest with little, trusted/dishonest with much)**
- 3. In Matthew 25:21, what is the reward for faithfulness? What does the master say and do?**

Leader Tip: The principle is simple but profound: Small things reveal character. Big responsibilities are built on small faithfulness.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **Why do you think God cares about faithfulness in small matters? Why not just focus on the "big" things?**
2. **What does this passage teach us about character? How do small acts of faithfulness shape who we become?**
3. **Looking at the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30, why is faithfulness in what we've been given so important to God?**
4. **How are you stewarding what God has already given you? (This could include time, money, relationships, abilities, responsibilities)**

Leader Tip: Faithfulness in small things isn't about legalism—it's about character formation. Small choices shape us into people who can be trusted with more.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **What are the "small things" in your life right now? (Think about daily responsibilities, habits, commitments)**
2. **If you're honest, where are you cutting corners or being unfaithful in small matters? What makes it tempting to think "this doesn't really matter"?**
3. **Can you identify a time when faithfulness in something small led to bigger opportunities? Or when lack of faithfulness closed doors?**
4. **What is one specific "small thing" you can commit to doing faithfully this week as an act of worship and character development?**

Leader Tip: Examples of small things: how you treat your spouse in private, showing up on time, following through on commitments, integrity when no one's watching, stewarding your morning routine, etc.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Choose one specific responsibility** or task and commit to excellence in it this week, even if it seems small
- **Reflect on how small acts of faithfulness** impact your character—journal about it
- **Ask someone close to you:** "Where do you see me being faithful? Where could I improve?"

Group Discussion: *Share examples of faithfulness in small tasks that you've witnessed in others. How did it impact you?*

Close in Prayer: Ask God to help each person see the eternal significance of small acts of faithfulness. Pray for grace to be excellent in the little things.

Leader Note: We live in a culture that chases big, flashy, impressive achievements. This week counters that by showing that God values hidden faithfulness. Encourage the group that the small stuff really does matter to God.

WEEK 7: Overcoming Obstacles to Being Used by God

Core Scripture: Hebrews 12:1-2

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

If you were training for a marathon, what would make it harder—carrying a heavy backpack, or having someone trying to trip you along the way? What obstacles in your spiritual life feel like that backpack or that person?

Leader Tip: This analogy helps people think concretely about obstacles before getting into the Scripture. The passage uses a running metaphor, so this sets it up well.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

Hebrews 12:1-2 *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. What "hinders" or "entangles" you?

Leader Tip: This passage immediately follows Hebrews 11 (the "hall of faith"). The "cloud of witnesses" refers to the faithful people just described. You might briefly mention this.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **What two things does the passage say we should "throw off"? How are they different?**
2. **What are we called to do in this race? (List the actions)**
3. **Who is our example, and what did He endure? What was His motivation?**

Leader Tip: Notice the distinction: "everything that hinders" (not necessarily sin, but weighs us down) and "the sin that so easily entangles" (actual sin). Both must be dealt with.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **What's the difference between something that "hinders" and something that "entangles"? Can you think of examples of each?**
2. **Why does the passage tell us to fix our eyes on Jesus? How does focusing on Him help us overcome obstacles?**
3. **The passage mentions "the joy set before him"—Jesus looked past the cross to the joy beyond. How can having an eternal perspective help us overcome present obstacles?**
4. **What "weights" or sins are hindering your walk with God right now? How do you recognize when something has become an obstacle?**

Leader Tip: "Hindrances" might be good things that have become too important (work, hobbies, even family). "Entangling sins" are things that trip us up repeatedly. Help the group distinguish.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **What specific obstacles are keeping you from fully following God right now? (Name them specifically—fear, doubt, past hurt, secret sin, busyness, etc.)**
2. **How can fixing your eyes on Jesus help you overcome the specific challenges you're facing? What would that look like practically this week?**
3. **Is there something in your life that's not necessarily sinful, but it's hindering your spiritual growth? Something that's weighing you down?**
4. **What would need to change for you to "run with perseverance" rather than just stumble along? What's one obstacle you need to throw off this week?**

Leader Tip: This requires honesty. Model vulnerability by sharing your own obstacles. Remind the group that everyone has obstacles—we're not alone in this.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Identify one specific obstacle** (hindrance or sin) and take a concrete step to remove it
- **Share your obstacle with your accountability partner** from the group—ask them to check in with you
- **Each morning this week**, spend 2 minutes "fixing your eyes on Jesus"—pray, read Scripture, worship

Personal Reflection: *Write down obstacles that keep you from fully following God. For each one, ask: "What is one step I can take to overcome this?"*

Close in Prayer: Pray for strength to remove obstacles. Have each person (who's comfortable) name one obstacle aloud and have the group pray for them.

Leader Note: Obstacles are real and varied—some are external circumstances, some are internal struggles, some are habits, some are relationships. Emphasize that overcoming obstacles is not done through willpower alone, but by fixing our eyes on Jesus and receiving His strength.

WEEK 8: Hearing God's Voice

Core Scripture: John 10:27

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

Think of a time when you knew you needed to make a decision and you really wanted God's guidance. How did you go about trying to hear from Him? What was that experience like?

Leader Tip: This helps people reflect on how they've actually tried to hear God's voice, which sets up discussing how to do it well.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

John 10:27 *"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."*

Additional Context - Psalm 23:1-3: *"The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake."*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. Do you believe you can actually hear God's voice? Why or why not?

Leader Tip: The shepherd/sheep metaphor runs through both passages. Shepherds in Jesus' time had such close relationships with their sheep that the sheep knew their shepherd's voice distinctly.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **According to John 10:27, what do Jesus' sheep do? What does Jesus do?**
2. **What is the relationship described here? (Sheep/Shepherd, Knowing/Following)**
3. **In Psalm 23, what does the Shepherd provide? How does He lead?**

Leader Tip: The relationship is intimate—"I know them." This isn't distant or impersonal. God knows His sheep personally.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **What does it mean that Jesus' sheep "listen to" His voice? Is this literal hearing, or something else?**
2. **The passage says sheep "follow" after they hear. What's the connection between hearing God's voice and obeying it?**
3. **How does a shepherd lead sheep in Psalm 23? (He makes them lie down, leads beside quiet waters, guides along right paths) What does this tell us about how**

God leads us?

4. **What practices help you stay attentive to God's voice? How do you distinguish God's voice from your own thoughts, desires, or even enemy lies?**

Leader Tip: God speaks through Scripture, the Holy Spirit's promptings, circumstances, wise counsel, and creation. But it always aligns with Scripture—that's our test of authenticity.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **How do you recognize when God is speaking to you? Can you describe a time when you clearly heard from Him?**
2. **What makes it difficult for you to hear God's voice? (Busyness, noise, doubt, sin, distractions?)**
3. **Jesus leads beside "quiet waters"—when was the last time you spent quiet, undistracted time with God? What would it take to create that space regularly?**
4. **Is there something you sense God has been speaking to you about lately that you've been ignoring or resisting? What would it look like to follow His voice in that area?**

Leader Tip: Many people struggle to "hear" God. Normalize this—it takes practice and intentionality. Encourage quieting themselves before God and learning to recognize His voice through Scripture first.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Commit to listening for God's voice daily** this week—spend 10 minutes in quiet prayer and Scripture
- **Write down** what you sense God saying to you during your quiet time

- **Practice one specific spiritual discipline** that helps you hear God better (silence, Scripture meditation, fasting from media, etc.)

Group Activity: *Share ways God has spoken to you in the past (through Scripture, circumstances, other people, promptings, etc.). This helps others recognize how God speaks.*

Close in Prayer: Ask God to speak clearly to each person this week and give them ears to hear His voice.

Leader Note: Hearing God's voice is both simple (His sheep hear Him) and takes cultivation (quieting ourselves, knowing Scripture, staying close to Him). Encourage the group that God wants to communicate with them even more than they want to hear from Him.

WEEK 9: Obedience and Sacrifice

Core Scripture: 1 Samuel 15:22

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

Tell us about a time when you did the right thing even though it cost you something (time, money, comfort, reputation, etc.). What made you choose obedience despite the cost?

Leader Tip: This primes the conversation about costly obedience before getting into Saul's story.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

1 Samuel 15:22 *"But Samuel replied: 'Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.'"*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. Is there an area where you're "sacrificing" but not truly obeying?

Leader Tip: This verse comes from Saul's failure to fully obey God's command. He kept some of the plunder to "sacrifice" to God, but God wanted obedience, not offerings. You might briefly share this context.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **What question does Samuel ask Saul?**
2. **What two things does Samuel contrast in this verse?**
3. **Which does God prefer, and how strongly? ("better than")**

Leader Tip: Read 1 Samuel 15:1-23 beforehand so you can give context if needed. Saul was told to destroy everything, but he kept the best animals to "sacrifice to God." God called this disobedience.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **Why is obedience better than sacrifice? Aren't sacrifices good? What's the difference Samuel is pointing to?**
2. **How is it possible to do "religious" or "good" things but still be disobedient to what God actually asked?**
3. **Saul justified his disobedience by saying he would use the plunder to worship God. When are we tempted to rationalize partial obedience?**
4. **What has God asked you to obey recently, and how have you responded? Have you obeyed fully, partially, or rationalized why you didn't need to?**

Leader Tip: The core issue: Saul substituted his idea of worship for simple obedience. We do this too—we give God what we think is good instead of what He asked for.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **Is there an area where you've struggled with obedience to God? What makes obedience difficult there?**
2. **Can you think of a time when you substituted "doing religious things" for actual obedience to what God was asking? What was that like?**
3. **What forms of "sacrifice" or Christian activity might you be using to avoid simple obedience in a specific area?**
4. **What would it look like to take one step of obedience this week, even if it costs you something?**

Leader Tip: This can get uncomfortably specific. We'd often rather serve on a church committee than obey God about forgiving someone. We'd rather give money than surrender control. Press for honesty.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Identify one area** where God has been asking you to obey, and take one concrete step this week (no matter how small)
- **Reflect on why obedience is difficult** in that area—journal about it and pray for God's help
- **Share your step of obedience** with your accountability partner and ask them to follow up

Reflection Question: *"God, what are You asking me to obey that I've been avoiding or rationalizing?"*

Close in Prayer: Pray for courage to obey, even when it's costly. Confess areas of partial obedience and ask for God's grace to fully follow Him.

Leader Note: Obedience sounds legalistic to modern ears, but biblical obedience flows from love and trust. It's not earning God's favor—it's responding to the One who already loves us. Help the group see obedience as relationship, not religion.

WEEK 10: Serving Others as Christ Did

Core Scripture: Mark 10:45

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

Who is someone in your life who has served you in a way that really impacted you? What did they do, and why did it matter so much?

Leader Tip: This helps people connect to the power of servant leadership through their own experience before exploring Jesus' model.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

Mark 10:45 *"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

Additional Context - Mark 10:42-44: *"Jesus called them together and said, 'You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.'"*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. Where do you naturally want to be served rather than serve?

Leader Tip: These verses come right after James and John ask for positions of honor. Jesus flips the world's values upside down—greatness comes through serving.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **What is the contrast Jesus makes in verses 42-43? (Gentile rulers vs. His disciples)**
2. **According to Jesus, how does someone become "great" or "first" in God's kingdom?**
3. **Why did Jesus come, according to verse 45? What was His mission?**

Leader Tip: The word "ransom" is powerful—it means Jesus' service went all the way to death, paying a price to free us. Ultimate service.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **How does Jesus redefine greatness? How is this completely different from the world's definition?**
2. **What does it mean to "adopt the mindset of a servant leader"? How is servant leadership different from weakness or being a doormat?**
3. **Jesus served "to give his life as a ransom." What does sacrificial service look like in everyday life, not just dramatic moments?**
4. **What opportunities do you have to serve others this week? Who has God placed in your life that needs your service?**

Leader Tip: Servant leadership is not weakness—Jesus had all authority but chose to serve. True strength is using your power for others' good, not your own advancement.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **If you're honest, where do you naturally expect to be served rather than being the one who serves? (At home? Work? Church?)**
2. **Who in your life needs your service right now? What is one practical way you could serve them this week?**
3. **What makes serving difficult for you? (Pride? Busyness? Fear of being taken advantage of? Not feeling appreciated?)**
4. **How can you adopt a servant's heart in your closest relationships—your family, your co-workers, your friends?**

Leader Tip: Serving those closest to us is often hardest—we expect them to serve us. Challenge the group to start with their own household.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Serve someone in need this week**—look for a specific opportunity and take it
- **Do one act of service** in your home that you don't normally do (without announcing it or expecting thanks)
- **Reflect on how serving others** helps you grow closer to Christ—journal about it

Group Activity: *Plan a group service project for the next month—serving together in the community, at church, or helping someone in need.*

Discussion: Study Mark 10:35-45 and discuss Jesus' teaching on servanthood. What stands out?

Close in Prayer: Ask God to give each person opportunities to serve this week and a willing heart to take them.

Leader Note: Service is the mark of Christlikeness. We live in a culture obsessed with self-service, so this is counter-cultural. Emphasize that Jesus—the most powerful person who ever lived—used His power to serve. That's our model.

WEEK 11: Recognizing God's Provision

Core Scripture: Philippians 4:19

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

Think of a time when you needed something and God provided in an unexpected or surprising way. What happened, and how did it affect your faith?

Leader Tip: Sharing testimonies of God's provision builds faith and sets the tone for recognizing His ongoing provision in our lives.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

Philippians 4:19 *"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."*

Additional Context - Philippians 4:11-13: *"I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength."*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. Where do you need to trust God's provision right now?

Leader Tip: Paul wrote Philippians from prison, thanking them for their financial gift. He speaks of God's provision from a place of both plenty and need.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **What does God promise to do in verse 19? What is He going to meet?**
2. **According to what standard will God provide? ("according to...")**
3. **In verses 11-13, what has Paul learned? What's his "secret"?**

Leader Tip: Notice Paul says "needs," not "wants." And God provides according to His riches, not our poverty. This is an abundant promise!

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **What's the difference between needs and wants? How does God determine what we truly need?**
2. **Paul says God will provide "according to the riches of his glory." What does this mean? How does God's abundance affect how He provides?**
3. **Why does Paul connect provision with contentment in verses 11-13? How can trusting God's provision help you live boldly for Him?**
4. **How has God provided for you in the past? Can you trace His faithfulness through your life?**

Leader Tip: God's provision doesn't always mean material abundance—sometimes His provision is strength, peace, contentment, community. Broaden the definition beyond just financial provision.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **What specific needs are you facing right now? Have you brought them to God?**
2. **Where are you struggling to trust God's provision? What fears or anxieties do you have about the future?**
3. **How would your life change if you truly believed God would meet all your needs? What would you do differently?**
4. **Can you identify ways God is providing for you right now that you might be taking for granted?**

Leader Tip: Encourage specific sharing. Financial needs, relational needs, emotional needs, spiritual needs—all are valid areas where God provides.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Write down specific needs** and pray for God's provision—keep a "provision journal"
- **Share a testimony** of God's provision with someone this week to encourage their faith
- **Practice gratitude** daily by listing 3 ways God provided for you that day

Group Sharing: *Take turns sharing testimonies of God's provision in your life. How has He been faithful?*

Reflection Exercise: *Look back over the past year. Where has God provided? Write it down and thank Him.*

Close in Prayer: Thank God for His faithful provision. Bring specific needs before Him as a group.

Leader Note: God's provision is not a prosperity gospel promise—it's a relationship promise. He provides what we need, not always what we want, and sometimes His provision looks different than we expected. Emphasize trusting His wisdom and goodness.

WEEK 12: Preparing for Greater Assignments

Core Scripture: Isaiah 6:8

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

Think about a time when you were given a responsibility or opportunity that felt bigger than you were ready for. How did you respond? What did you learn?

Leader Tip: This helps people reflect on times they've stepped into something beyond their capacity—which is where God often works.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

Isaiah 6:8 "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'"

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. Are you ready to say, "Here I am, send me"? What makes you hesitate?

Leader Tip: This verse comes after Isaiah's vision of God's holiness and his own cleansing. You might briefly describe the context from Isaiah 6:1-7.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. What question does God ask in this verse?
2. How does Isaiah respond? What's his posture?

3. **Read the fuller context (Isaiah 6:1-8). What happened to Isaiah before he said "Send me"?**

Leader Tip: Isaiah saw God's holiness, felt his own unworthiness, and was cleansed by God. THEN he was ready to be sent. Preparation involves encountering God and being transformed.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **Why is Isaiah's response remarkable? What does his willingness reveal about his heart?**
2. **What do you think prepares someone for a "greater assignment" from God? (Hint: Look at what happened to Isaiah before verse 8)**
3. **God asks "Whom shall I send?" but He already knows the answer. Why does He ask? What is He looking for?**
4. **What steps can you take to prepare for a greater calling from God? How do you make yourself available?**

Leader Tip: Preparation isn't about becoming perfect—it's about encountering God, being cleansed, and saying "yes" to His call. Isaiah didn't volunteer his skills; he volunteered himself.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **Are you ready to say, "Here I am, send me"? What makes this easy or difficult for you right now?**
2. **What fears or challenges do you face in saying "yes" to God's calling? What's holding you back?**
3. **Where do you sense God might be calling you to step out in faith? What would it look like to respond like Isaiah?**

4. What does "preparation" look like for you personally right now? What do you need to do to be ready for what God has next?

Leader Tip: This is a pivotal moment in a year-long journey. Some may be sensing God's call to something specific. Create space for people to share dreams, fears, and callings.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Pray daily**, asking God to prepare your heart for His call and to reveal what He's preparing you for
- **Take one small step of faith** toward a new challenge or opportunity God is placing before you
- **Journal your response** to this question: "God, where are You sending me?"

Group Discussion: *Share fears or challenges you face in saying "yes" to God. Pray for each other.*

Close in Prayer: Dedicate yourselves afresh to God's calling. Pray for preparation, courage, and availability.

Leader Note: Week 12 marks the end of the first quarter—this is a hinge point. Some participants may be sensing specific callings. Others may still be in preparation season. Both are valid. Encourage availability over perfection.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS - QUARTER 1 (Weeks 1-12)

Reflection on Weeks 1-12

You've completed the first quarter of The Foundry! Take time to reflect on what God has been teaching you.

Journaling Prompts:

1. **What has been the most significant lesson or breakthrough for you in these first 12 weeks?**
2. **How have you seen God shaping you (like the potter and clay from Week 1)?**
3. **What areas of growth have been most challenging? Most encouraging?**
4. **Looking at where you started in Week 1, how have you grown?**

Key Themes from Weeks 1-12:

- **Foundation:** God is shaping you for His purposes
 - **Identity:** You are created with purpose and called to faithful stewardship
 - **Character:** Humility, surrender, obedience, and servant-heartedness
 - **Relationship:** Developing a heart for God and hearing His voice
 - **Readiness:** Preparing for greater assignments
-

Suggested Worship Songs

Use these songs in your personal worship time or as a group:

1. **"Refiner"** - Maverick City Music
 2. **"Lord, I Need You"** - Matt Maher
 3. **"Build My Life"** - Housefires
 4. **"Great Are You Lord"** - All Sons & Daughters
 5. **"Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)"** - Hillsong United
-

Prayer Focus for the Next Quarter

As you move into Weeks 13-26, commit to praying daily for:

1. **Continued growth** in character and Christlikeness
 2. **Perseverance** through trials and challenges
 3. **Courage** to step into God's calling
 4. **Deeper relationships** within your group
 5. **Clarity** on God's purpose for your life
-

Group Accountability

Pair up with another member of The Foundry for weekly check-ins:

- Share one specific area where you're seeking growth
 - Ask each other: "How did you live out last week's action steps?"
 - Pray for each other regularly
 - Encourage each other when the journey gets hard
-

Looking Ahead

The next quarter (Weeks 13-26) will focus on:

- Trusting God's timing
- Walking by faith through uncertainty
- Developing integrity, love, and contentment
- Serving others and building community
- Becoming the man God created you to be

Stay committed. The transformation is just beginning.

WEEK 13: Trusting God's Timing

Core Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3:1

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

Tell us about a time when you were waiting for something important and it felt like it would never happen. How did the waiting affect you? Looking back, do you see any purpose in the timing?

Leader Tip: Waiting is universal—everyone has experienced it. This question helps people connect to the theme before diving into Scripture.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

Ecclesiastes 3:1 *"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."*

Additional Context - Ecclesiastes 3:11: *"He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end."*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. What are you waiting for right now?

Leader Tip: You might read Ecclesiastes 3:2-8 (the famous "a time for..." passage) to give fuller context. It shows that life has different seasons.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **According to verse 1, what has a time and season?**
2. **In verse 11, what two things does God do? (He makes... He has set...)**
3. **What limitation do humans have according to verse 11?**

Leader Tip: God makes things beautiful "in its time"—not on our timetable, but His. And we can't fully understand His timing from our limited perspective.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **What does it mean that there's "a time for everything"? How does this challenge our desire to control timing?**
2. **God makes everything "beautiful in its time." How does God's timing differ from ours? Why is His timing better?**

3. **Why do you think God gives us a sense of eternity (verse 11) but doesn't let us "fathom" His full plan? What purpose might this serve?**
4. **When have you struggled to trust God's timing? How can you embrace patience in your spiritual walk?**

Leader Tip: We want God to work on our timetable, but He works on His. His timing is perfect, even when we can't see it. Think of Joseph, Moses, David—all experienced long waits.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **What are you currently waiting for? How is the waiting affecting your faith?**
2. **Can you think of a time when waiting on God brought unexpected blessings or growth? What did you learn?**
3. **Where do you need to trust God's timing right now? What makes trusting difficult in that area?**
4. **How can you embrace patience and contentment in your current season instead of constantly looking ahead?**

Leader Tip: Waiting seasons are opportunities for growth, even though they don't feel that way. Encourage honesty about the frustration of waiting—it's real and valid.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Write a prayer** committing an area of waiting to God—surrender your timeline to His
- **Practice patience this week** by avoiding rushed decisions and seeking God's peace
- **Reflect daily** on one way God has been faithful in His timing in the past

Reflection Exercise: *Read the story of Joseph (Genesis 37-50) or Abraham (Genesis 12-21). How did God's timing differ from theirs? What did the waiting produce in them?*

Close in Prayer: Pray for trust in God's perfect timing. Ask for patience and eyes to see what God is doing in the waiting season.

Leader Note: Trusting God's timing is one of the hardest aspects of faith. We live in an instant-gratification culture, so waiting feels unproductive. Remind the group that God is always working, even in the waiting.

WEEK 14: Courage to Follow God's Call

Core Scripture: Joshua 1:9

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

Who is the most courageous person you know personally? What makes their courage stand out to you?

Leader Tip: This helps the group think concretely about what courage looks like before exploring biblical courage.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

Joshua 1:9 *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. Where do you need courage right now?

Leader Tip: This comes right after Moses' death when Joshua is taking over leadership. God repeats "be strong and courageous" multiple times in Joshua 1. The repetition shows how important it is.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **What does God command Joshua to be?**
2. **What does God tell Joshua NOT to be or feel?**
3. **What reason does God give for Joshua to be courageous?**

Leader Tip: The command is bookended by God's promise of presence. Courage isn't based on Joshua's strength—it's based on God being with him.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **Why does God have to command courage? Why doesn't it come naturally?**
2. **How does God's promise of His presence give us courage? Why is this better than self-confidence?**
3. **What fears have held you back from stepping into God's call? Are those fears about your inadequacy or about God's ability?**
4. **Read Joshua 1:1-9 for fuller context. What specific situation was Joshua facing? How does this relate to facing your own challenges?**

Leader Tip: Joshua was stepping into impossible shoes (Moses!) and facing huge challenges (conquering Canaan). Yet God's presence made the difference.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **What fears are holding you back from stepping into what God is calling you to do?**
2. **Where do you need courage to obey God right now? Be specific.**
3. **How can God's promise "I will be with you wherever you go" give you courage to face what you're afraid of?**
4. **What would change in your life if you truly believed God is with you in every situation?**

Leader Tip: Fear is universal. Create safety for people to share their fears—model vulnerability by sharing your own first.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Take one small, courageous step** toward obedience this week—something you've been afraid to do
- **Memorize Joshua 1:9** as a source of courage when fear comes
- **Identify one fear** and pray specifically for God's courage to face it

Reflection Exercise: *Share an example of courage you've seen in someone else. What did you learn from watching them?*

Close in Prayer: Pray for courage to follow God's call, even when it's scary. Pray specifically for the fears people shared.

Leader Note: Courage isn't the absence of fear—it's obedience despite fear. Encourage the group that God doesn't call the equipped; He equips the called.

WEEK 15: Perseverance in Trials

Core Scripture: James 1:2-4

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

What's the hardest thing you've ever persevered through? What kept you going when you wanted to quit?

Leader Tip: Everyone has faced something difficult. This connects the theme to real experience.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

James 1:2-4 *"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. What trial are you facing right now?

Leader Tip: "Consider it pure joy" sounds crazy at first. Make sure to explore WHY James says this—not because trials are fun, but because of what they produce.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **What are we told to do when we face trials?**
2. **What does the testing of faith produce?**
3. **What is the end result if we let perseverance "finish its work"?**

Leader Tip: Notice the progression: trials → testing of faith → perseverance → maturity and completeness. There's a purpose to the process.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **How can trials be "pure joy"? What does James mean by this?**
2. **Why do trials produce perseverance? What is it about difficulty that builds endurance?**
3. **James says trials can shape you into the person God wants you to be. How have you seen this in your own life or in others?**
4. **What trials are you facing, and how can you find joy in them? What might God be developing in you through this difficulty?**

Leader Tip: Joy in trials doesn't mean we enjoy pain—it means we trust God's purpose in it. We can have joy even in hardship because we know God is at work.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **What trial are you currently facing? (Be as specific as you're comfortable sharing)**
2. **How is this trial testing your faith? What is it revealing about where you need to grow?**
3. **Can you reflect on one lesson God is teaching you through a current or past trial?**
4. **Where do you need perseverance right now? What would it look like to "let perseverance finish its work" instead of giving up or taking shortcuts?**

Leader Tip: This requires vulnerability—sharing struggles is hard. Thank people for their honesty and remind them they're not alone.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Reflect on one lesson** God is teaching you through a current trial—write it down
- **Pray for perseverance and joy** in the midst of challenges—even just for today
- **Encourage someone else** who is going through a trial

Group Activity: *Read Romans 5:3-5 together and discuss how it connects to James 1:2-4. How does suffering produce character?*

Close in Prayer: Pray for those facing specific trials. Ask God to give perseverance, joy, and faith to see His purposes.

Leader Note: Some people may be in the middle of really difficult trials. Be sensitive and create space for pain. Don't spiritualize away real suffering—acknowledge it while pointing to God's faithfulness.

WEEK 16: Living with Integrity

Core Scripture: Proverbs 10:9

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

Think of someone you know who has strong integrity—someone whose words and actions consistently match. What about them inspires trust?

Leader Tip: This helps people identify what integrity looks like in real life before defining it biblically.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

Proverbs 10:9 *"Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out."*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. Where do you struggle most with integrity?

Leader Tip: Integrity literally means "wholeness"—being the same person in public and private. It's consistency between values and actions.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **What are the two paths described in this verse?**
2. **What is the result of walking in integrity?**
3. **What happens to those who take "crooked paths"?**

Leader Tip: "Walks securely" means living with confidence and peace—no fear of being exposed because there's nothing hidden. Integrity brings security.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **What does it mean to "walk in integrity"? What does this look like in daily life?**
2. **Why does integrity lead to security? How does living with hidden sin or dishonesty create insecurity?**
3. **The passage says crooked paths "will be found out." Why is this significant? Have you seen this play out?**

4. **How would others describe your integrity? What practical steps can you take to strengthen your character?**

Leader Tip: Read the story of Daniel refusing the king's food (Daniel 1:8-20) as an example of integrity—Daniel was consistent in his convictions even when it was costly.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **If you're honest, where do you struggle with integrity? (This could be in honesty, keeping commitments, consistency between public/private life, work ethics, etc.)**
2. **Is there an area where your actions don't match your values? Where is there a gap?**
3. **What makes integrity difficult in your specific context? (Work pressures? Temptations? Fear of consequences?)**
4. **Who in your life has permission to speak into your integrity and hold you accountable?**

Leader Tip: Integrity issues are often private, so this requires vulnerability. Model openness about your own struggles.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Commit to one specific act of integrity** this week (keeping a promise, admitting a mistake, being honest in a difficult conversation, etc.)
- **Ask a trusted friend:** "Where do you see gaps in my integrity? Where am I inconsistent?"
- **Journal about how living with integrity** affects your relationships and your peace

Reflection Exercise: "God, where am I being inconsistent between what I say and what I do? Where do You want me to grow in integrity?"

Close in Prayer: Ask God for strength to live with integrity in every area. Confess areas of inconsistency and ask for His help.

Leader Note: Integrity is built in small moments when no one is watching. Emphasize that character is who you are when no one else knows—but God always knows.

WEEK 17: Practicing Love in Action

Core Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

When have you felt truly loved by someone? What did they do that communicated love to you so powerfully?

Leader Tip: This connects love to concrete actions, which sets up the passage perfectly.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. Which characteristic of love is hardest for you?

Leader Tip: This is one of the most famous passages about love. Read it slowly—there's a lot packed in here.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **How many characteristics of love can you identify in this passage?**
2. **Which characteristics describe what love IS? Which describe what love is NOT?**
3. **Which of these characteristics surprise you or challenge your understanding of love?**

Leader Tip: Count them together—there are at least 15 characteristics listed. Love is defined by actions, not just feelings.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **Why does Paul define love through actions rather than emotions? What does this tell us about real love?**
2. **How does your life reflect Christ's love? Where do you see these characteristics present? Where are they lacking?**
3. **Looking at this list, which areas feel most difficult for you personally? Why?**
4. **What relationships need more grace and love this week? How can you demonstrate Christ-like love practically?**

Leader Tip: This passage describes how Jesus loved us. It's also a passage about our call to love others the same way.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **Think of your closest relationships. How well are you demonstrating these characteristics of love?**
2. **Is there a person or situation where you need to show more love? What specifically would that look like this week?**
3. **Which characteristic challenges you most right now? (Patient? Kind? Not easily angered? Keeps no record of wrongs?)**
4. **How can you move love from feeling to action this week?**

Leader Tip: Get specific. "Love" is abstract until we talk about actual people and actual situations. Press for concrete examples.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Choose one characteristic** from the passage and focus on practicing it this week
- **Identify one person** you've struggled to show love to and take one specific step toward reconciliation or kindness
- **Pray for God's help** to exhibit His love in your daily interactions

Reflection Exercise: *Read John 13:34-35 (Jesus' command to love one another). How does Jesus say the world will know we're His disciples?*

Close in Prayer: Pray for the ability to love like Christ loves—sacrificially, patiently, and unconditionally.

Leader Note: Love is the mark of a disciple. It's also the hardest thing to do consistently. Remind the group that we can only love like this through the Holy Spirit's power—it's not self-generated.

WEEK 18: Faith in Uncertainty

Core Scripture: Hebrews 11:1

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

Tell us about a time when you had to make an important decision without having all the information you wanted. How did you move forward?

Leader Tip: This connects to the theme of faith—moving forward when we can't see the full picture.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

Hebrews 11:1 *"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. Where are you being called to have faith right now?

Leader Tip: This verse defines faith. It's not blind belief—it's confident trust in God's character and promises, even when we can't see the outcome.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **How does this verse define faith?**
2. **What two things does faith give us? (Confidence and assurance)**
3. **What is faith connected to? (What we hope for and what we do not see)**

Leader Tip: Faith is about the future and the unseen. It's trusting God for things we can't yet see or control.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. How is biblical faith different from wishful thinking or blind optimism?
2. Why does faith require uncertainty? If we could see everything clearly, would faith be necessary?
3. Read some examples from Hebrews 11 (the "hall of faith"). What do these people have in common? How did they demonstrate faith?
4. What does it mean to "live by faith" in your current circumstances? How do you respond when the future feels unclear?

Leader Tip: Hebrews 11 gives example after example of people who trusted God without seeing the full picture—Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses, etc.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. Where is your future uncertain right now? What don't you know that you wish you knew?
2. How do you typically respond when you can't see the path ahead? (Anxiety? Control? Paralysis? Trust?)
3. What specific area requires faith from you this week? What would it look like to trust God there?
4. Can you think of a time when you had to trust God despite uncertainty, and He proved faithful? How did that experience shape your faith?

Leader Tip: Uncertainty is uncomfortable. Acknowledge that while also pointing to God's faithfulness. Faith doesn't remove uncertainty—it helps us trust God in it.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Identify one uncertain area** in your life and commit it to God in prayer each day
- **Memorize Hebrews 11:1** as a reminder to walk by faith
- **Journal about a past time** when God was faithful in uncertainty—let that build your faith now

Reflection Exercise: *Read Hebrews 11 (the whole chapter). What common thread do you see in all these examples of faith?*

Close in Prayer: Pray for faith to trust God in areas of uncertainty. Ask for His strength when you can't see the path ahead.

Leader Note: Faith is not certainty about circumstances—it's certainty about God's character. He is faithful even when the future is unclear.

WEEK 19: Contentment in Every Season

Core Scripture: Philippians 4:11-13

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

What season of life have you been most content in? What made that season feel satisfying?

Leader Tip: This helps people reflect on when they've experienced contentment before exploring how to cultivate it.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

Philippians 4:11-13 *"I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength."*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. How content are you with where God has you right now?

Leader Tip: Paul wrote this from prison! His contentment wasn't based on circumstances—it was based on Christ.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. What has Paul "learned" according to these verses?
2. What different circumstances has Paul experienced?
3. What is the source of Paul's strength and contentment?

Leader Tip: Paul says he "learned" contentment—it didn't come naturally. It's a skill developed over time through trust in God.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. What's the difference between contentment and complacency? Between contentment and settling?
2. Paul experienced both need and plenty. Why is contentment hard in both situations?
3. How does verse 13 ("I can do all this through him who gives me strength") connect to verses 11-12 about contentment?
4. What steps can you take to find joy in your current situation instead of always looking ahead?

Leader Tip: Contentment doesn't mean we don't have goals—it means we trust God in the present while working toward the future. It's peace in the now.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **How content are you with where God has placed you right now? What makes contentment difficult?**
2. **What circumstances or situations tempt you toward discontentment? (Financial? Relational? Career? Health?)**
3. **When you think about your life, are you constantly looking ahead to "when things get better," or can you find joy today?**
4. **Paul found contentment through Christ's strength. Where do you typically look for contentment? How is that working?**

Leader Tip: Discontentment is often rooted in comparison or fear. Help people identify the root of their discontentment.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Practice gratitude daily**—write down three things you're thankful for each day this week
- **Identify one area of discontentment** and pray specifically for God to give you peace there
- **Share your reflections** with your accountability partner

Group Activity: *Share a time when you found peace in a challenging season. How did contentment change your experience?*

Close in Prayer: Thank God for where He has you right now. Ask for contentment and trust in His timing and provision.

Leader Note: Contentment is counter-cultural. We're taught to always want more, do more, be more. Biblical contentment says "Christ is enough" no matter the circumstances.

WEEK 20: Developing a Servant's Heart

Core Scripture: Philippians 2:3-4

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

Who has served you in a way that really impacted you? What did they do, and why did it matter?

Leader Tip: This helps people connect to the power of servant-heartedness through personal experience.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

Philippians 2:3-4 *"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. Where do you naturally put yourself first?

Leader Tip: These verses come right before the famous passage about Jesus humbling Himself (Phil 2:5-11). Paul uses Jesus as the ultimate example of a servant.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **What are we told NOT to do in verse 3?**
2. **What are we called to do instead?**
3. **What does verse 4 tell us to look to?**

Leader Tip: The commands are clear: stop focusing on self, start focusing on others. It's a complete reorientation of priorities.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **What does it mean to "value others above yourselves"? Is this saying we have no value?**
2. **How can you place others' needs above your own this week without losing healthy boundaries?**
3. **Read John 13:1-17 (Jesus washing the disciples' feet). How does Jesus demonstrate a servant's heart? What made this act so significant?**
4. **In what ways can you reflect Christ's humility in your daily life?**

Leader Tip: Valuing others above yourself doesn't mean having low self-worth—it means putting their needs on par with (or above) your own wants. It's other-focused love.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **Where do you naturally look out for your own interests first? (At home? Work? Church? In friendships?)**
2. **Who in your life needs you to serve them this week? How can you put their interests ahead of your own?**

3. **What makes having a servant's heart difficult for you? (Pride? Busyness? Fear of being taken advantage of?)**
4. **How would your closest relationships change if you consistently valued others above yourself?**

Leader Tip: Start with the home. The people closest to us are often the hardest to serve consistently because we expect them to serve us.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Perform one act of humble service** for someone in your life this week (family member, coworker, neighbor)
- **Look for one opportunity daily** to put someone else's needs before your own
- **Pray for God to grow a servant's heart** in you—ask Him to reveal areas of selfishness

Group Activity: *Plan and execute a service project as a group—serve together in your community or help someone in need.*

Close in Prayer: Pray for servant hearts. Ask God to help each person see opportunities to serve and give them willing spirits.

Leader Note: Servant-heartedness is the DNA of the Kingdom. Jesus didn't come to be served but to serve. When we serve, we reflect Christ most clearly.

WEEK 21: Living in Daily Surrender

Core Scripture: Romans 12:1

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

What's something you've had to let go of or surrender in your life? What made it difficult?

Leader Tip: This connects surrender to real experience—letting go is hard, but everyone has done it.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

Romans 12:1 *"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship."*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. What areas of your life are hard to surrender to God?

Leader Tip: "Living sacrifice" is a paradox—sacrifices were usually dead! Paul is saying: offer yourself daily as an act of worship.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **What does Paul urge us to do?**
2. **What does he call this act?**
3. **What motivates this act of surrender? ("in view of God's...")**

Leader Tip: The "therefore" connects to Romans 1-11 (God's mercy and salvation). Because of what God has done, we surrender ourselves to Him.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **What does it mean to offer yourself as a "living sacrifice"? How is this different from Old Testament sacrifices?**
2. **Why does Paul call surrender "your true and proper worship"? How is surrender an act of worship?**
3. **What areas of your life are hard to surrender to God? Why do we resist giving Him full control?**
4. **How can you offer yourself as a living sacrifice each day? What does this look like practically?**

Leader Tip: Living sacrifices keep crawling off the altar! Daily surrender means we have to choose again each day to give ourselves to God.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **What areas of your life have you been holding back from God? (Career? Relationships? Time? Money? Dreams?)**
2. **Why is surrender so difficult? What are you afraid might happen if you fully surrender to God?**
3. **What would change in your daily life if you truly lived as a "living sacrifice"?**
4. **Is there a specific decision or situation where you need to surrender control to God this week?**

Leader Tip: Surrender feels like loss of control. Help people see that surrendering to God is actually gaining security, not losing it.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Write down areas** you need to surrender to God—pray through each one
- **Identify one area** and take a practical step to let go of control (stop forcing your plan, trust God's timing, release a relationship, etc.)
- **Each morning**, pray: "God, I offer myself to You today as a living sacrifice"

Personal Exercise: Complete this prayer: "God, I've been holding onto _____. I surrender it to You because..."

Close in Prayer: Have each person (who's willing) name one thing they're surrendering to God. Pray for each other.

Leader Note: Surrender is daily. We don't surrender once and we're done—we surrender again and again as new challenges and opportunities arise. It's a lifestyle of trust.

WEEK 22: Wisdom in Decision-Making

Core Scripture: James 1:5

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

Tell us about a decision you made that you're really glad you sought wisdom for. What helped you make the right choice?

Leader Tip: This connects wisdom-seeking to positive outcomes, showing the value of seeking God's guidance.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

James 1:5 "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. What decision do you need wisdom for right now?

Leader Tip: This is one of the most encouraging promises in Scripture—God WANTS to give us wisdom, and He gives it generously without criticizing us for needing it!

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **What should we do if we lack wisdom?**
2. **How does God give wisdom according to this verse?**
3. **What is promised to those who ask?**

Leader Tip: "Generously" and "without finding fault" are key—God doesn't begrudge us for needing wisdom. He's eager to give it!

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **Why is it significant that God gives wisdom "without finding fault"? What does this tell us about God's character?**
2. **How do you seek God's wisdom in your choices? What does that process look like practically?**
3. **Read 1 Kings 3:5-14 (Solomon's request for wisdom). What can we learn from how Solomon approached God and what he asked for?**
4. **What decisions do you need God's guidance on right now? How can you actively seek His wisdom this week?**

Leader Tip: Wisdom isn't just knowledge—it's the ability to apply knowledge well. It's seeing situations from God's perspective and making choices that align with His will.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **What significant decisions are you facing right now? Have you brought them to God?**
2. **When you've sought God's wisdom in the past, how has He provided it? (Through Scripture, counsel, circumstances, peace, promptings?)**
3. **What keeps you from seeking God's wisdom? Do you try to figure things out on your own first?**
4. **How would your decision-making process change if you truly believed God would give you wisdom generously?**

Leader Tip: Many people try to solve problems themselves before asking God. Encourage seeking God FIRST, not as a last resort.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Before making any major decision** this week, pause and pray: "God, I need Your wisdom"
- **Memorize James 1:5** as a reminder to seek God's guidance
- **Journal about a recent decision**—write about whether you felt you had God's wisdom or relied on your own understanding

Group Activity: *Share current decisions you're facing and pray for one another to have wisdom. Check in next week on how God provided guidance.*

Close in Prayer: Pray for wisdom in specific decisions people are facing. Thank God that He gives generously to all who ask.

Leader Note: Wisdom is a gift from God, but we have to ask. Many poor decisions could be avoided if we paused to seek God's wisdom before acting.

WEEK 23: Building Self-Control

Core Scripture: Galatians 5:22-23

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

What's an area where you've successfully built self-discipline or self-control? What helped you develop it?

Leader Tip: This celebrates existing self-control and shows it's possible to grow in this area.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

Galatians 5:22-23 *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. Which fruit of the Spirit is weakest in your life right now?

Leader Tip: Self-control is listed last but it's not least important! All the other fruits require self-control to sustain them.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **How many characteristics (fruits) are listed?**
2. **What produces this fruit? (The fruit of the...)**

3. **What does Paul say about these characteristics at the end?**

Leader Tip: It's "fruit" (singular), not "fruits"—the Holy Spirit produces all of these as one package, not a pick-and-choose menu.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **What does it mean that this is the "fruit of the Spirit," not the "fruit of human effort"? What's our role vs. the Spirit's role?**
2. **Why is self-control important? How does it enable the other fruits to flourish?**
3. **Read Galatians 5:16-25 for fuller context. What is the relationship between walking in the Spirit and developing self-control?**
4. **What areas of your life need more self-control? How does relying on the Holy Spirit help you grow in this fruit?**

Leader Tip: Self-control is not white-knuckle willpower—it's the Spirit's power enabling us to say no to flesh and yes to God.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **Where do you struggle most with self-control? (Anger? Eating? Spending? Speech? Lust? Technology? Work?)**
2. **What triggers your lack of self-control in that area? Can you identify patterns?**
3. **Have you been trying to build self-control through willpower alone, or have you been relying on the Holy Spirit's help?**
4. **What would change in your life if you had greater self-control in one key area?**

Leader Tip: Lack of self-control affects every area of life. Be specific about areas—don't let it stay abstract.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Focus on practicing self-control in one specific area** this week (choose one!)
- **Ask an accountability partner** to pray with you and check in on your progress
- **Each time you're tempted**, pray: "Holy Spirit, give me strength" before acting

Reflection Exercise: *Write down a specific action plan for cultivating self-control: What triggers will you avoid? What will you do instead when tempted?*

Close in Prayer: Pray for the Holy Spirit's power to develop self-control. Confess areas of weakness and ask for His strength.

Leader Note: Self-control is developed, not instant. It takes practice and dependence on the Spirit. Encourage small steps and celebrate progress.

WEEK 24: Trusting in God's Promises

Core Scripture: 2 Corinthians 1:20

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

Tell us about a promise someone made to you that they actually kept. Why did that matter to you?

Leader Tip: This connects the importance of kept promises to God's faithfulness in keeping His.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

2 Corinthians 1:20 *"For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ. And so through him the 'Amen' is spoken by us to the glory of God."*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. Which of God's promises do you need to cling to right now?

Leader Tip: God's promises are not "maybe"—they're "yes" in Christ. Every promise finds its fulfillment in Jesus.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **What does Paul say about God's promises?**
2. **Where are all God's promises fulfilled? (In whom?)**
3. **What is our response to God's promises? ("Amen" means...)**

Leader Tip: "Amen" means "so be it" or "let it be true." We say "amen" to God's promises—we agree with them and trust them.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **What does it mean that all God's promises are "Yes" in Christ? Why is Jesus the key to God's promises?**
2. **Which of God's promises are most meaningful to you personally? Why?**

3. **How can you stand firm in His promises when doubts arise? What helps you trust?**
4. **Read some of God's key promises (examples: Matthew 11:28-30, Romans 8:28, Philippians 4:19). Which one speaks to your current situation?**

Leader Tip: God has made hundreds of promises in Scripture. They're not wishful thinking—they're guaranteed because of Christ.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **What situation are you facing where you need to trust one of God's promises?**
2. **Which promise of God feels hardest to believe right now? Why?**
3. **When has God fulfilled a promise in your life? How did that strengthen your faith?**
4. **How would your life change this week if you fully believed and acted on God's promises?**

Leader Tip: Help people connect specific promises to specific situations. God's promises aren't generic—they apply to real-life circumstances.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Memorize one promise of God** that's particularly meaningful to you right now
- **Share a testimony** of God's faithfulness with someone this week—encourage their faith
- **When doubts come**, speak God's promises out loud as declarations of faith

Group Activity: *Explore key promises of God together. Share which ones have been particularly meaningful in your faith journey.*

Close in Prayer: Thank God that His promises are "Yes" in Christ. Pray for faith to trust His promises even when circumstances say otherwise.

Leader Note: God's promises are only as reliable as the one making them. And God cannot lie. Every promise He makes will be kept—we can stake our lives on it.

WEEK 25: Gratitude in All Circumstances

Core Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:18

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

What's something you're grateful for right now that you might have taken for granted a year ago?

Leader Tip: This helps people practice gratitude right from the start and sets a positive tone.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

1 Thessalonians 5:18 "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. What are three things you're thankful for today?

Leader Tip: Notice it says "in all circumstances," not "for all circumstances." We give thanks IN hard times, not necessarily FOR hard times.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **What are we commanded to do?**
2. **In what circumstances should we give thanks?**
3. **What does Paul say this is?**

Leader Tip: It's not just good advice—it's God's will for us! Gratitude is part of God's design for our lives.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **How is it possible to give thanks "in all circumstances"? Does this mean we thank God for bad things?**
2. **What's the difference between giving thanks IN circumstances vs. FOR circumstances?**
3. **Why do you think gratitude is God's will for us? How does gratitude affect our spiritual health?**
4. **Read the story of Job. How did he respond to terrible circumstances? (Job 1:20-21)**

Leader Tip: We thank God IN hard times because we trust His sovereignty and goodness, not because we're thankful for the pain itself.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **How can you cultivate gratitude even in difficult times? What helps you maintain a thankful heart?**

2. **What circumstances right now make gratitude difficult? Can you find anything to be thankful for even in those circumstances?**
3. **When you're struggling, how does practicing gratitude change your perspective?**
4. **Who or what are you thankful for today? Take a moment to actually thank God for specific blessings.**

Leader Tip: Gratitude is a practice, not a feeling. Even when we don't feel thankful, we can choose to give thanks. It's an act of faith.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Keep a gratitude journal** for one week—write down at least three things daily
- **Express gratitude to someone** who has been a blessing in your life
- **Dedicate time daily** to thank God for His goodness—even in hard circumstances

Group Activity: *Share testimonies of God's faithfulness and blessings in your life. Practice gratitude together.*

Close in Prayer: Thank God for specific blessings each person mentioned. Practice gratitude as an act of worship.

Leader Note: Gratitude transforms our perspective. It doesn't change circumstances, but it changes how we see them. A grateful heart is a trusting heart.

WEEK 26: Walking in Godly Confidence

Core Scripture: Psalm 27:1

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

When have you felt most confident in your life? What gave you that confidence?

Leader Tip: This helps distinguish between worldly confidence (based on ability) and godly confidence (based on God's presence).

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

Psalm 27:1 *"The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?"*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. Where do you need confidence right now?

Leader Tip: David's confidence isn't in himself—it's in God as his light, salvation, and stronghold. That's the source of true confidence.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **What three things does David call the Lord?**
2. **What two questions does David ask?**
3. **What is the implied answer to those questions?**

Leader Tip: The questions are rhetorical—the answer is "no one!" Because God is light, salvation, and stronghold, there's nothing to fear.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. How does confidence in God differ from pride or self-confidence?
2. Read Psalm 27 in full. What situation is David facing? How does he maintain confidence despite circumstances?
3. What areas of your life need more trust in God's strength rather than your own?
4. How can understanding God as your "light," "salvation," and "stronghold" give you confidence in challenges?

Leader Tip: Godly confidence = humility + trust in God. It's not confidence in ourselves; it's confidence in God's power and faithfulness.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. What situation right now makes you feel afraid or insecure?
2. Where are you tempted to rely on your own strength instead of God's? How's that working?
3. If you truly believed God is your light, salvation, and stronghold, what would you do differently this week?
4. How can you cultivate confidence in God rather than in yourself or your circumstances?

Leader Tip: Fear and lack of confidence often come from looking at ourselves or circumstances instead of at God. Help people shift their focus.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- Take one step of boldness this week in an area where you feel God calling you

- **Memorize Psalm 27:1** as a declaration of your confidence in God
- **Before making decisions or facing challenges**, pray: "Lord, You are my stronghold"

Reflection Exercise: *Write down areas where you need to rely more on God's strength. Pray through each one, declaring His power over your weakness.*

Close in Prayer: Pray for godly confidence—confidence that comes from knowing God is with us and for us.

Leader Note: Week 26 marks the halfway point! Celebrate the growth that's happened. Godly confidence isn't arrogance—it's assurance that God is who He says He is and will do what He says He'll do.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS - QUARTER 2 (Weeks 13-26)

Reflection on Weeks 13-26

You're halfway through The Foundry! Take time to reflect on the second quarter.

Journaling Prompts:

1. **How has your trust in God grown through these weeks?**
2. **What's been the hardest lesson to apply? Why?**
3. **Where have you seen the most growth in your character?**
4. **How has this group impacted your faith journey?**

Key Themes from Weeks 13-26:

- **Trust:** God's timing, provision, and promises are perfect
 - **Perseverance:** Trials produce character and maturity
 - **Character:** Integrity, love, contentment, and self-control
 - **Action:** Servant-heartedness and daily surrender
 - **Confidence:** Assurance rooted in God's faithfulness
-

Suggested Worship Songs

1. **"Way Maker"** - Leeland
 2. **"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"** - Chris Rice
 3. **"Goodness of God"** - Bethel Music
 4. **"The Blessing"** - Kari Jobe & Elevation Worship
 5. **"King of Kings"** - Hillsong Worship
-

Prayer Focus for the Next Quarter

As you move into Weeks 27-39, commit to praying daily for:

1. **Impact in your spheres of influence** (family, work, community)
 2. **Boldness to share your faith** and make disciples
 3. **Deeper intimacy with God** through spiritual disciplines
 4. **Transformation that others can see** in your life
 5. **Endurance for the second half** of this journey
-

Group Reflection Activity

At your next meeting, spend extra time on these questions:

- What's one way you've grown in the past 6 months?
 - How has this group been a blessing to you?
 - What do you hope to focus on in the second half?
 - How can we support each other better?
-

Mid-Year Check-In

You're halfway! This is a good time to:

- **Review your goals** from Week 1—how are you doing?
- **Recommit to the process**—the second half builds on the first
- **Celebrate growth**—you're not who you were 26 weeks ago!
- **Look ahead with anticipation**—God has more in store

The second half focuses on living out your faith in every sphere: family, work, community, and discipleship. You're being prepared not just to be shaped BY God, but to be USED by God.

Stay committed. The best is yet to come.

WEEK 27: God's Call in the Family

Core Scripture: Ephesians 5:25

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

What's one way your family (growing up or current) shaped who you are today? What did you learn from them?

Leader Tip: This helps people reflect on family influence before exploring their role in spiritual leadership at home.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

Ephesians 5:25 "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her."

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. How well are you reflecting Christ's love in your home?

Leader Tip: This passage is addressed to husbands, but the principle of sacrificial love applies to all family relationships.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **What are husbands commanded to do?**
2. **What is the standard/model for this love?**
3. **What did Christ do for the church?**

Leader Tip: The standard is impossibly high (Christ's love!), which shows we need God's help to love like this.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **How did Christ love the church? What did His love look like in action?**
2. **What does sacrificial love look like in a family context? How is it different from transactional love?**
3. **Read Ephesians 5:22-33 for fuller context. What is Paul's vision for Christ-centered family relationships?**
4. **How are you leading your family spiritually? What changes can you make to reflect Christ's love in your home?**

Leader Tip: Christ's love was sacrificial, unconditional, and servant-hearted. That's our model for family relationships.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **How well are you loving your family the way Christ loves the church? Be honest—where are you falling short?**
2. **What specific ways can you demonstrate sacrificial love to your family this week?**

3. **If you're married, how can you love your wife more like Christ? If you're single, how can you love your family sacrificially?**
4. **What barriers keep you from leading your family spiritually? (Busyness? Pride? Fear? Lack of knowledge?)**

Leader Tip: This can be convicting. Create safety for honesty. Many men struggle with spiritual leadership at home.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Pray with your family daily** this week (even if it's just a short prayer)
- **Take one specific action** to demonstrate sacrificial love (serve them, listen well, initiate spiritual conversation, etc.)
- **Develop one spiritual goal** for your family this month

Close in Prayer: Pray for each person's family. Ask God to help them lead with Christ-like love.

Leader Note: Spiritual leadership starts at home. If we can't lead our families well, we're not ready to lead elsewhere. Be gentle but honest about this.

WEEK 28: Faith at Work

Core Scripture: Colossians 3:23-24

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

What's the best job you've ever had? What made it satisfying?

Leader Tip: This helps people think about meaningful work before connecting it to faith.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

Colossians 3:23-24 *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. Do you see your work as service to Christ?

Leader Tip: This completely reframes work—it's not just for a paycheck or a boss, but as service to Christ Himself.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **How should we approach our work?**
2. **Who are we ultimately working for?**
3. **What reward is mentioned?**

Leader Tip: "Whatever you do" means ALL work—not just "ministry" work. Every job matters to God.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **How does seeing your work as "service to Christ" change your approach to it?**
2. **What does it mean to work "with all your heart"? What does excellence look like in your specific work?**

3. **Read the story of Joseph working for Potiphar (Genesis 39). How did Joseph honor God through his work?**
4. **What opportunities do you have to reflect Christ at work? How can your work be worship?**

Leader Tip: Work isn't separate from faith—it's an expression of faith. How we work reflects what we believe about God.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **Do you see your work as an act of worship to God? Why or why not?**
2. **Where do you compromise at work—cutting corners, dishonesty, lack of effort? What drives that?**
3. **How can you better reflect Christ in your workplace this week? (Integrity? Excellence? Kindness? Gospel conversations?)**
4. **If you truly believed you were working for Christ, not just your employer, what would change?**

Leader Tip: Many men compartmentalize faith and work. Help them see that all of life—including work—is worship when done for God's glory.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Commit to excellence** in your work this week as a testimony of your faith
- **Look for one opportunity** to share your faith or demonstrate Christ's love at work
- **Before starting work each day**, pray: "Lord, I do this for You"

Group Sharing: Share examples of how you've integrated faith into your workplace. What works? What's challenging?

Close in Prayer: Pray for each person's work situation. Ask God to help them see work as worship.

Leader Note: Work is where many men spend most of their waking hours. Connecting faith to work is essential for living an integrated, whole life.

WEEK 29: Serving in the Community

Core Scripture: Matthew 5:16

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

When has someone's kindness or service in your community made an impact on you? What did they do?

Leader Tip: This shows the power of Christian witness through service before exploring the biblical mandate.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

Matthew 5:16 "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. How is your light shining in your community?

Leader Tip: This comes from the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus calls us "salt" and "light"—we're meant to impact the world around us.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **What are we called to let shine?**
2. **What should others see?**
3. **What is the ultimate purpose of our good deeds?**

Leader Tip: The goal isn't personal glory—it's that others would glorify God. Our service points to Him.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **What does it mean to be "light" in your community? What does that look like practically?**
2. **Why does Jesus connect good deeds with glorifying God? How does service lead people to faith?**
3. **Read Jesus' teaching about being salt and light (Matthew 5:13-16). What happens when salt loses its saltiness or light is hidden?**
4. **How are you being a light in your community right now? What specific acts of service can you do?**

Leader Tip: We're called to be visible witnesses—our good deeds should be evident and point others to God.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **Where is your "community"? (Neighborhood? Workplace? Gym? Kids' sports teams? Online communities?)**
2. **How are you currently being a light there? Are you visible as a Christian, or are you hiding your light?**
3. **What needs do you see in your community? How can you meet one of those needs this week?**
4. **What keeps you from serving in your community? (Busyness? Fear? Apathy? Not knowing where to start?)**

Leader Tip: Many Christians are invisible in their communities. Challenge people to be intentionally present and serving.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Serve someone in your community** this week (neighbor, coworker, stranger)
- **Pray for opportunities** to be a light and for boldness to take them
- **Identify one need** in your community and consider how you can help meet it

Group Activity: *Plan and execute a community service project together—serve as a visible group witness.*

Close in Prayer: Pray for eyes to see needs and courage to meet them. Ask God to use your service to point others to Him.

Leader Note: Christians should be known as the most serving, generous, helpful people in their communities. Our love should be tangible and visible.

WEEK 30: Evangelism as a Lifestyle

Core Scripture: Matthew 28:19-20

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

Who shared the Gospel with you? How did they do it, and what made it effective?

Leader Tip: This connects evangelism to personal experience and shows there are many ways to share faith.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

Matthew 28:19-20 *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. Who in your life needs to hear about Jesus?

Leader Tip: This is the Great Commission—Jesus' final command to His followers. It's for all of us, not just "professional" ministers.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **What does Jesus command His followers to do?**
2. **What three specific actions are mentioned? (go, baptize, teach)**
3. **What promise does Jesus give at the end?**

Leader Tip: The command is to "make disciples," not just "make converts." Evangelism includes ongoing discipleship.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. What does it mean to "make disciples"? How is this different from just sharing information?
2. Why does Jesus promise His presence? How does knowing He's with us give us boldness to evangelize?
3. What does "evangelism as a lifestyle" mean? How is it different from evangelism as an event?
4. What steps can you take to make evangelism part of your life rather than a special occasion?

Leader Tip: Lifestyle evangelism means we're always ready to share, always looking for opportunities, always living as witnesses.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. How often do you share your faith with others? What keeps you from doing it more?
2. Who in your life needs to hear about Jesus? Have you been praying for opportunities to share with them?
3. What fears or barriers keep you from evangelizing? (Fear of rejection? Not knowing what to say? Worried about relationships?)
4. If you took the Great Commission seriously, what would change in your daily life?

Leader Tip: Most Christians struggle with evangelism. Create safety to admit fears and lack of practice. We're all learning.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Share your testimony** with at least one person this week
- **Pray for boldness** and opportunities to share your faith
- **Write out your testimony**—practice telling your story in 3-5 minutes

Role Play: *Practice sharing the Gospel or your testimony in pairs. Give each other feedback.*

Close in Prayer: Pray for boldness, wisdom, and opportunities to share faith. Pray for specific people by name.

Leader Note: Evangelism doesn't have to be scary or confrontational. It's simply sharing what Jesus has done for you. Equip people with their own story.

WEEK 31: Stewardship of Resources

Core Scripture: 1 Peter 4:10

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

What's something you've been given (gift, talent, opportunity, possession) that you've been able to use to bless others?

Leader Tip: This shows stewardship in action before defining it biblically.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

1 Peter 4:10 *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. What has God given you to steward?

Leader Tip: Stewardship isn't just about money—it's about everything God has entrusted to us: time, talents, relationships, resources.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **What should we do with the gifts we've received?**
2. **How are we described in this verse?**
3. **What are we stewarding according to Peter?**

Leader Tip: We're "stewards"—managers of what belongs to God. We don't own anything; we manage it for Him.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **What does it mean to be a "faithful steward"? What does faithfulness look like in stewardship?**
2. **Are you using your gifts and resources to serve others? Or are you using them primarily for yourself?**
3. **Read the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30). What does this parable teach about stewardship?**
4. **What does faithful stewardship look like in your life? How are you managing what God has given you?**

Leader Tip: Everything we have—time, money, talents, opportunities—is a gift from God. The question is: are we using it for His purposes or just ours?

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **Make a list: What has God given you to steward?** (Time, money, talents, influence, relationships, possessions, opportunities)
2. **How are you currently stewarding each of these? Where are you faithful? Where are you falling short?**
3. **If God asked you to give an account of your stewardship today, what would He say?** (Matthew 25:19)
4. **What's one specific area where you can be a better steward this week?**

Leader Tip: Stewardship touches every area of life. Help people see the breadth of what God has entrusted to them.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Commit to one new act of stewardship** this week (generosity, time for others, using your gifts, etc.)
- **Pray for wisdom** to use your resources for God's glory
- **Write down** what God has entrusted to you and how you can better steward it

Group Discussion: *Share practical ways to be better stewards. What have you learned about stewardship?*

Close in Prayer: Thank God for what He's entrusted to you. Ask for wisdom to steward it faithfully.

Leader Note: One day we'll give an account. Stewardship isn't about guilt—it's about gratitude and faithfulness with what we've been given.

WEEK 32: Forgiveness in Relationships

Core Scripture: Colossians 3:13

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

Tell us about a time when someone forgave you for something significant. How did that feel? What did it do for the relationship?

Leader Tip: Experiencing forgiveness helps us understand why offering forgiveness matters.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

Colossians 3:13 *"Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. Who do you need to forgive?

Leader Tip: The standard is clear: forgive as Christ forgave you. That's total, unconditional forgiveness.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **What two things are we called to do for each other?**
2. **What condition might require forgiveness?**
3. **What is our model/standard for forgiveness?**

Leader Tip: "Bear with" means patience and tolerance. "Forgive" means releasing the debt. Both are necessary in relationships.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **What does it mean to forgive "as the Lord forgave you"? How did He forgive us?**
2. **Why is offering forgiveness so difficult? What makes us want to hold grudges?**
3. **Read Jesus' teaching about forgiveness in Matthew 18:21-35. What does this parable teach about our need to forgive?**
4. **How can offering forgiveness free you to grow spiritually? What does unforgiveness do to us?**

Leader Tip: Unforgiveness is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die. It hurts us more than them.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **Who do you need to forgive in your life right now? Be specific.**
2. **What makes forgiveness difficult in that situation? What are you afraid will happen if you forgive?**
3. **Is there someone who has asked for your forgiveness that you haven't granted? Why not?**
4. **How has unforgiveness affected you? Your relationships? Your walk with God?**

Leader Tip: Forgiveness doesn't mean the offense didn't matter or that there are no consequences. It means we release the debt and let God handle justice.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Take one step toward forgiving someone** this week (even if it's just praying for them or releasing bitterness in your heart)
- **Write a letter** to someone you need to forgive (you may or may not send it—the act of writing helps process)
- **Pray for God** to heal relationships and soften your heart

Reflection Exercise: *Jesus forgave those who crucified Him. How does His example challenge you in your situation?*

Close in Prayer: Pray for grace to forgive as Christ forgave. Pray for healing in broken relationships.

Leader Note: Forgiveness is one of the hardest commands to obey. It goes against our nature. But it's essential for freedom and Christlikeness.

WEEK 33: Leading by Example

Core Scripture: 1 Timothy 4:12

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

Who is someone whose life (not just their words) has influenced you? What about their example was so powerful?

Leader Tip: This shows that actions speak louder than words—setting up the principle of leading by example.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

1 Timothy 4:12 *"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. In which area do you most need to be a better example?

Leader Tip: Paul is telling young Timothy to lead by example. Age doesn't matter—character does.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **What does Paul tell Timothy not to let happen?**
2. **How should Timothy respond to potential criticism?**
3. **In what five areas should Timothy set an example?**

Leader Tip: List the five: speech, conduct, love, faith, purity. These cover every area of life.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **Why is setting an example so important for leaders? Why isn't teaching alone enough?**
2. **How does your life reflect your faith? Where do your actions align with your words? Where don't they?**
3. **Looking at the five areas (speech, conduct, love, faith, purity), which one challenges you most? Why?**

4. **What areas of your life need more alignment with Christ's example so others can follow you?**

Leader Tip: "Follow me as I follow Christ" (1 Cor 11:1) is the heart of leading by example. We can only lead where we're going ourselves.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **If someone followed your example in each of these areas, where would they end up? Would that be good?**
2. **Where is there a gap between what you say and what you do? Between your public life and private life?**
3. **Who is watching your life right now? (Kids, coworkers, friends, mentees) What are they learning from you?**
4. **What specific change do you need to make to be a better example in one of these five areas?**

Leader Tip: This requires honest self-assessment. We're all hypocrites to some degree—the question is, are we closing the gap?

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Choose one area** (speech, conduct, love, faith, purity) and commit to leading by example there this week
- **Ask a trusted friend:** "How does my life reflect Christ? Where do you see inconsistency?"
- **Identify one person** who's watching your life—live intentionally as an example to them

Close in Prayer: Pray for integrity—that life and words would match. Ask God to make each person a living example of Christ.

Leader Note: Leadership is influence, and influence comes from example. People don't follow what we say—they follow what we do consistently.

WEEK 34: Building Lasting Relationships

Core Scripture: Proverbs 27:17

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

Who is one friend who has made you better? How have they challenged or encouraged you to grow?

Leader Tip: This shows the value of iron-sharpening-iron friendships before defining them biblically.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

Proverbs 27:17 *"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. Who in your life sharpens you? Who do you sharpen?

Leader Tip: Sharpening requires friction—it's not always comfortable, but it makes us better.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **What metaphor does Solomon use?**
2. **What happens when iron sharpens iron?**
3. **Who does the sharpening in human relationships?**

Leader Tip: Both pieces of iron are sharpened in the process—it's mutual. Good friendships make both people better.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **What does it mean for one person to "sharpen" another? What does that look like practically?**
2. **Why do we need others to sharpen us? What can't we do alone?**
3. **Read about Jonathan and David's friendship (1 Samuel 18:1-4, 20:1-42). How did they sharpen each other?**
4. **Who in your life sharpens you spiritually? How do you intentionally invest in your relationships?**

Leader Tip: Sharpening includes encouragement, challenge, accountability, truth-telling, and shared growth. It's active, not passive.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **Do you have friendships where you're being sharpened? If not, what's missing?**
2. **Are you investing in relationships intentionally, or are they mostly superficial?**
3. **Who can you invest in more intentionally? Who do you sense God calling you to sharpen?**

4. **What keeps you from building deep, meaningful friendships? (Busyness? Fear? Pride? Past hurt?)**

Leader Tip: Many men struggle with deep friendships. Create space to acknowledge this and encourage intentionality.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Spend time encouraging a friend or mentor** this week—call, text, meet up
- **Identify someone** you want to build a deeper relationship with and take one step toward that
- **Commit to vulnerability**—share something real with a trusted friend this week

Group Discussion: *Share examples of meaningful relationships in your life. What made them deep? What can you learn from them?*

Close in Prayer: Thank God for the gift of friendship. Pray for deeper, more meaningful relationships.

Leader Note: Men need other men. We're not meant to do life alone. Iron-sharpening-iron friendships are essential for spiritual growth.

WEEK 35: Overcoming Fear

Core Scripture: Isaiah 41:10

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

What's something you were afraid of in the past that you've overcome? What helped you get past it?

Leader Tip: This shows that fear can be overcome and sets up exploring how God helps us do it.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

Isaiah 41:10 "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. What are you afraid of right now?

Leader Tip: This verse is packed with promises: God's presence, His identity as our God, His strength, His help, His support.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **What two commands does God give?**
2. **What reasons does God give for these commands?**
3. **What four promises does God make in this verse?**

Leader Tip: Count them: (1) I am with you, (2) I am your God, (3) I will strengthen and help you, (4) I will uphold you. Those promises counter fear.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **Why does God's presence drive out fear? How does knowing He's with us help?**

2. **What fears are holding you back from living boldly for God right now?**
3. **Read other examples of God telling people "do not fear" (Joshua 1:9, Psalm 23, etc.). What common theme do you see?**
4. **How can trusting God help you overcome fear? What does that trust look like practically?**

Leader Tip: Fear is often about control—we're afraid because we can't control outcomes. Trust in God means releasing control to Him.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **What specific fears are you facing right now? (Be honest—name them)**
2. **How are these fears affecting your life? What opportunities are you missing because of fear?**
3. **Which of God's promises in this verse do you most need to believe right now?**
4. **What would you do this week if fear wasn't holding you back?**

Leader Tip: Fear is universal. Create safety for people to share. Remind them that even great biblical heroes experienced fear—but they moved forward anyway.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Take one step toward facing a fear** with God's help this week
- **Memorize Isaiah 41:10** as a weapon against fear—speak it when fear comes
- **Share your fear** with someone and ask them to pray for you

Group Activity: Share how God has helped you overcome fears in the past. Encourage each other with testimonies of God's faithfulness.

Close in Prayer: Pray for courage to face fears. Declare God's presence and promises over specific fears people shared.

Leader Note: Fear is a liar. It tells us God isn't enough, isn't there, or won't help. Combat fear with truth about God's character and promises.

WEEK 36: Walking in Faithfulness

Core Scripture: Hebrews 10:23

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

Who is the most faithful person you know? What makes them consistently reliable?

Leader Tip: This helps people identify what faithfulness looks like in real life.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

Hebrews 10:23 "Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful."

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. Where do you need to be more faithful right now?

Leader Tip: Our faithfulness is a response to God's faithfulness. He is faithful first, which enables our faithfulness.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **What are we called to hold to?**
2. **How should we hold to it?**
3. **What reason is given for this command?**

Leader Tip: "Unswervingly" means without wavering—steady, consistent faithfulness. And it's possible because God is faithful.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **What does it mean to remain faithful "in difficult seasons"? What makes faithfulness hard when things are tough?**
2. **How can you remain faithful to God even when you don't see immediate results or feel His presence?**
3. **Read examples of faithfulness in Scripture (Noah, Daniel, Paul). What do they have in common? What kept them faithful?**
4. **What does faithfulness to God look like in your daily life? How would others know you're faithful?**

Leader Tip: Faithfulness is tested in hard times. Anyone can be faithful when things are good. True faithfulness shows up in drought seasons.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **Where are you tempted to give up or waver in your faith right now?**

2. **Can you think of a time when God's faithfulness encouraged you to keep going? What happened?**
3. **What would it look like to be faithful in your current season, even if circumstances don't change?**
4. **Who needs to see your faithfulness right now? How can your steadfastness encourage them?**

Leader Tip: Faithfulness often feels unrewarded in the moment. Help people see the long-term fruit of consistency and trust.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Identify one way** to show faithfulness in your current season (keeping going when you want to quit, staying consistent in discipline, trusting God despite circumstances)
- **Thank God daily** for His faithfulness to you—let His faithfulness fuel yours
- **Encourage someone else** to remain faithful in their situation

Reflection Exercise: *Read about Noah's faithfulness (Genesis 6-8). He built an ark for 120 years before the rain came. What does his example teach about faithfulness?*

Close in Prayer: Pray for faithfulness in each person's specific situation. Thank God for His unwavering faithfulness.

Leader Note: Faithfulness is a marathon, not a sprint. It's doing the right thing consistently over time, even when no one notices or nothing seems to change.

WEEK 37: Living with Purpose

Core Scripture: Jeremiah 29:11

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

If you could describe your life's purpose in one sentence, what would it be?

Leader Tip: This helps people articulate (or realize they haven't articulated) their sense of purpose.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

Jeremiah 29:11 *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'"*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. Do you believe God has good plans for your life?

Leader Tip: This is one of the most quoted verses in Scripture. Important to know the context—God was speaking to exiles in Babylon. Even in difficult circumstances, God has plans for good.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **Who has plans according to this verse?**
2. **What kind of plans does God have?**
3. **What will these plans give?**

Leader Tip: God knows. God has plans. God's plans are for good. God's plans give hope and a future. Those are four powerful truths.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **What does it mean that God has plans for you? How does that affect how you see your life?**
2. **Why does having a sense of purpose matter? What happens when people lack purpose?**
3. **Read Jesus' purpose statement in Luke 19:10. How did Jesus live with purpose? What can you learn from His example?**
4. **How can you align your actions with God's plans for you? What would that look like this week?**

Leader Tip: Purpose gives meaning to suffering, direction to decisions, and motivation to persevere. We're not just existing—we're on a mission.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **What is God's purpose for your life in this season? Can you articulate it?**
2. **How well are your daily actions aligned with God's purpose for you? Where is there a gap?**
3. **What would change in your life if you truly believed God has good plans for you?**
4. **Where do you need clarity on God's purpose for you? What steps can you take to seek that clarity?**

Leader Tip: Purpose isn't always a grand life mission—sometimes it's faithfulness in the season you're in. Help people see purpose in the present.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Write a personal mission statement**—what is God calling you to in this season?
- **Take one step** toward fulfilling God's purpose for you this week
- **Pray for clarity and courage** to follow His plans

Reflection Exercise: *Journal on this question: "God, what are You calling me to right now? What is my purpose in this season?"*

Close in Prayer: Thank God for having plans for each person. Pray for clarity, courage, and alignment with His purposes.

Leader Note: Purpose gives life meaning. When we know we're on a mission from God, everything changes—even mundane tasks take on significance.

WEEK 38: Pursuing Holiness

Core Scripture: 1 Peter 1:15-16

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

What's one area of your life where you've made significant progress in the past year? What helped you grow there?

Leader Tip: This celebrates growth and shows that change is possible—setting up the call to pursue holiness.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

1 Peter 1:15-16 *"But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy.'"*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. What does holiness mean to you?

Leader Tip: Holiness means "set apart" and "pure." It's not about perfection—it's about being distinct and devoted to God.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **What command does Peter give?**
2. **In what areas should we be holy?**
3. **What is the standard/reason for holiness?**

Leader Tip: The standard is God Himself—"as he who called you is holy." That seems impossible, which is why we need His help!

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **What does holiness mean in practical terms? What does it look like in daily life?**
2. **Why does God call us to be holy "in all you do"? Why not just some areas?**
3. **How is pursuing holiness different from legalism or perfectionism?**
4. **How can you pursue greater holiness in your thoughts and actions? What specific steps can you take?**

Leader Tip: Holiness is not about earning God's love—it's about becoming more like Him because we already have His love. It's transformation, not performance.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **What areas of your life need purification—places where you're not being set apart for God?**
2. **Where are you compromising or tolerating sin? What makes those areas hard to surrender?**
3. **If God is holy in all He does, and we're called to be like Him, what would change in your daily life?**
4. **What's one specific action you can take to pursue holiness this week?**

Leader Tip: Holiness touches everything—thought life, speech, relationships, entertainment choices, work ethics, etc. Help people see it's comprehensive.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Identify one specific area** where you need to pursue greater holiness and take action
- **Memorize 1 Peter 1:15-16** as a reminder of God's call
- **Ask God to reveal** areas that need purification—be ready to obey what He shows you

Group Prayer: *Confess areas where holiness is lacking. Pray for each other to have strength to pursue holiness.*

Close in Prayer: Ask God for desire and power to be holy as He is holy. Pray for transformation, not just behavior modification.

Leader Note: Holiness is God's work in us, but we cooperate by saying no to sin and yes to righteousness. It's both grace and effort—God's power, our participation.

WEEK 39: Walking in the Spirit

Core Scripture: Galatians 5:16

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

When have you experienced God's presence or leading so clearly that you knew it was the Holy Spirit? What was that like?

Leader Tip: This helps people reflect on real experiences with the Spirit before exploring what it means to walk in step with Him.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

Galatians 5:16 *"So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh."*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. Are you walking in step with the Spirit, or running ahead (or lagging behind)?

Leader Tip: "Walk by the Spirit" implies keeping pace with Him—not too fast, not too slow. It's moment-by-moment dependence.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **What does Paul command us to do?**
2. **What is the result of walking by the Spirit?**
3. **What are we contrasting the Spirit with?**

Leader Tip: The Spirit and the flesh (sinful nature) are in opposition. Walking by the Spirit means we don't follow fleshly desires.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. What does it mean to "walk by the Spirit"? What does that look like practically, hour by hour?
2. Read Galatians 5:16-26 for fuller context. What is the war between the Spirit and the flesh? How do we experience this?
3. How do you stay in step with the Holy Spirit? What practices help you remain Spirit-led?
4. What distractions or temptations pull you away from living in the Spirit?

Leader Tip: Walking by the Spirit means: seeking His guidance, obeying His promptings, relying on His power, and cultivating His fruit in our lives.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. Are you walking in step with the Spirit right now, or are you trying to live in your own strength?
2. What "flesh patterns" do you default to when you're not Spirit-led? (Control? Fear? Anger? Lust? Pride?)
3. How can you be more intentionally Spirit-led in your daily decisions and interactions?
4. What would change in your life this week if you consciously walked by the Spirit in every moment?

Leader Tip: Many Christians try to live the Christian life in their own power. Walking by the Spirit means depending on Him for everything.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Pray daily for the Holy Spirit's guidance and strength**—start each day asking Him to lead
- **Practice pausing before decisions**—ask "What is the Spirit saying?" before acting
- **When tempted**, pray: "Spirit, fill me" instead of trying to resist in your own strength

Group Sharing: *Share how you've seen the Spirit working in your life. What does being Spirit-led look like for you?*

Close in Prayer: Invite the Holy Spirit to fill, lead, and empower each person. Pray for sensitivity to His voice and obedience to His leading.

Leader Note: Walking in the Spirit is the key to victorious Christian living. We can't produce fruit, overcome sin, or live for God in our own power. It's all by the Spirit.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS - QUARTER 3 (Weeks 27-39)

Reflection on Weeks 27-39

You're entering the final quarter! Take time to reflect on the third quarter.

Journaling Prompts:

1. **How have you grown in your impact on others (family, work, community)?**
2. **What's been your biggest challenge in this section? Your biggest victory?**
3. **How has your relationship with the Holy Spirit deepened?**
4. **What from this quarter will you carry forward into the final weeks?**

Key Themes from Weeks 27-39:

- **Spheres of Influence:** Family, work, community, evangelism
- **Stewardship:** Managing what God has entrusted to us

- **Relationships:** Forgiveness, example, iron-sharpening-iron friendships
 - **Character:** Overcoming fear, faithfulness, purpose, holiness
 - **Spirit-Led Living:** Walking by the Spirit, not by the flesh
-

Suggested Worship Songs

1. "I Surrender All" - Charity Gayle
 2. "Build My Life" - Housefires
 3. "Holy Spirit" - Francesca Battistelli
 4. "Graves Into Gardens" - Elevation Worship
 5. "The Stand" - Hillsong United
-

Prayer Focus for the Final Quarter

As you move into Weeks 40-52, commit to praying daily for:

1. **Multiplication**—investing in others who will invest in others
 2. **Legacy**—leaving a lasting impact for God's kingdom
 3. **Perseverance**—finishing strong what you started
 4. **Vision**—clarity on what comes next after this year
 5. **Gratitude**—thankfulness for how God has worked this year
-

Encouragement for the Final Quarter

You're in the home stretch! The final 13 weeks focus on **discipleship and multiplication**—taking everything you've learned and passing it on to others. You've been shaped; now you'll shape others. You've been discipled; now you'll disciple others.

This is where the Foundry's purpose comes full circle: **men who have been forged by God now forge others.**

Stay committed. Finish strong. The Kingdom impact of this year is just beginning.

WEEK 40: The Call to Disciple Others

Core Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:2

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

Who has had the greatest impact on your spiritual growth? What did they do that made such a difference?

Leader Tip: This helps people see they've already experienced discipleship—now they'll learn to do it for others.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

2 Timothy 2:2 *"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others."*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. Who has God placed in your life to disciple?

Leader Tip: This verse shows four generations of disciples: Paul → Timothy → reliable people → others. That's the multiplication model.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **What does Paul tell Timothy to do?**
2. **What kind of people should he entrust these things to?**
3. **What should these people be able to do?**

Leader Tip: The key is "reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others." We're not just making converts—we're making disciple-makers.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **What is the goal of discipleship according to this passage? (Making more disciples, not just followers)**
2. **What does it mean to "entrust" spiritual truths to someone? What's the relationship like?**
3. **Read 2 Timothy 2:1-7 for fuller context. What does Paul say discipleship requires?**
4. **Who has God placed in your life to disciple? How can you prepare to mentor others?**

Leader Tip: Discipleship is intentional, relational investment in another person's spiritual growth. It's not a program—it's life-on-life.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **Who has God placed in your life that you could invest in spiritually? (Family member, friend, coworker, younger believer)**
2. **What makes you hesitate to disciple someone? (Feel unqualified? Too busy? Don't know how?)**
3. **What have you learned this year that you could pass on to someone else?**
4. **If you took seriously the call to make disciples, what would change in how you spend your time and energy?**

Leader Tip: Many people feel unqualified to disciple others. Remind them: you don't need to be perfect, just further along. And you have this guide as a tool!

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Pray for guidance** in identifying 1-2 people you can begin discipling
- **Reach out to one person** this week to begin or deepen a mentoring relationship
- **Write down qualities** you're looking for in someone to disciple (reliable, teachable, available)

Group Discussion: *Share who has discipled you and how. What did they do well? What can you learn from their approach?*

Close in Prayer: Pray for wisdom to identify who to invest in. Ask God to raise up disciple-makers through this group.

Leader Note: Week 40 begins the final section focused on multiplication. Everything so far has been preparation—now it's time to invest in others.

WEEK 41: Mentoring with Humility

Core Scripture: Philippians 2:3-4

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

What's the difference between a mentor who tries to impress you and one who genuinely serves you? Which is more effective?

Leader Tip: This highlights that effective mentoring is servant-hearted, not self-promoting.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

Philippians 2:3-4 *"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. How can you mentor with humility this week?

Leader Tip: We covered this passage in Week 20, but now we're applying it specifically to mentoring relationships.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **What two motivations should we avoid?**
2. **What should our attitude be instead?**
3. **Whose interests should we look to?**

Leader Tip: Mentoring is about the mentee's growth, not the mentor's ego. That requires humility.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **How can humility shape your approach to mentoring? What would that look like practically?**
2. **What challenges do you face in putting others' needs first when mentoring?**
3. **Read John 13:1-17 (Jesus washing feet) again. How does Jesus model humble mentoring?**
4. **How can you serve someone you're mentoring without being condescending or making it about you?**

Leader Tip: Humble mentoring means: listening more than talking, serving them, admitting when you don't know, and celebrating their growth more than your role in it.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **What temptations do you face as a mentor? (Pride? Control? Making it about you? Trying to look impressive?)**
2. **How can you demonstrate humility in a mentoring relationship? What specific actions would show that?**
3. **Think about someone you're mentoring or could mentor. What do they need from you? How can you serve them?**
4. **What would change if you saw mentoring as an act of humble service rather than a position of authority?**

Leader Tip: Good mentors point people to Jesus, not themselves. They decrease so He can increase (John 3:30).

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Perform an act of humble service** for someone you're mentoring or leading
- **Ask them:** "How can I serve you better? What do you need from me?"
- **Journal about** how humble service impacts your mentoring relationship

Close in Prayer: Pray for humility in mentoring. Ask God to keep the focus on others' growth, not our reputation.

Leader Note: The best mentors make it about the mentee, not themselves. Pride kills discipleship—humility multiplies it.

WEEK 42: Leading with Vision

Core Scripture: Proverbs 29:18

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

Tell us about a leader (in any context) who cast a compelling vision. What made their vision inspiring? How did it affect you?

Leader Tip: This shows the power of vision before exploring how to develop and cast vision.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

Proverbs 29:18 *"Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." (KJV) "Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint; but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction." (NIV)*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. What vision has God given you for your life and influence?

Leader Tip: Different translations emphasize different aspects—both are true. Without vision, people wander aimlessly.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **What happens when there is no vision/revelation?**
2. **What is the alternative to having no vision?**

3. What is promised to those who follow wisdom?

Leader Tip: Vision provides direction and purpose. Without it, people drift or "cast off restraint"—they have no guiding principle.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

- 1. Why do people need vision? What does vision provide that's so essential?**
- 2. How does having a clear vision help you inspire others to follow God's plan?**
- 3. Read Nehemiah's vision to rebuild Jerusalem (Nehemiah 2:11-20). How did he cast vision? What can you learn from his approach?**
- 4. What vision has God given you for your life and influence? Can you articulate it clearly?**

Leader Tip: Vision is seeing what God wants to do and aligning yourself with it. It's not just a dream—it's God's preferred future that you work toward.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

- 1. What vision has God given you for your role as a mentor, leader, father, or disciple-maker?**
- 2. Can you articulate your vision in one clear sentence? If not, what do you need to clarify?**
- 3. Who needs to hear your vision? How can you communicate it in a way that inspires them?**
- 4. What's one step you can take this week toward fulfilling the vision God's given you?**

Leader Tip: Many people have vague ideas but haven't clarified vision. Help them think through: What does God want to do? How am I part of it?

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Write a vision statement** for your role (as mentor, father, leader, disciple-maker)
- **Share your vision** with your mentees or family this week
- **Pray for God's guidance** in refining and pursuing this vision

Group Activity: *Share vision statements with each other. Give feedback and encouragement.*

Close in Prayer: Pray for clarity of vision and courage to pursue it. Ask God to use each person to inspire others.

Leader Note: Vision is contagious. When you know where you're going, others will follow. But vision must come from God, not just our ambitions.

WEEK 43: Multiplying Disciples

Core Scripture: Matthew 28:19-20

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

**Have you ever taught someone a skill who then went on to teach it to someone else?
How did that feel? What made it work?**

Leader Tip: This shows the principle of multiplication—one person teaches another, who teaches another...

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

Matthew 28:19-20 *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. Are you making disciples who make disciples?

Leader Tip: We've seen this passage before (Week 30), but now we're focusing specifically on multiplication.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **What is the main command in this passage?**
2. **What are the three supporting actions? (go, baptize, teach)**
3. **What does Jesus promise at the end?**

Leader Tip: The command is to make disciples—not decisions, not converts, not church members. Disciples who follow Jesus and make other disciples.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **What's the difference between making disciples and multiplying disciples? Why does multiplication matter?**
2. **How can you help those you disciple become disciple-makers themselves?**

3. **What barriers might prevent you from multiplying disciples? (Fear? Time? Thinking "they're not ready"?)**
4. **Read 2 Timothy 2:2 again. How does Paul's vision of multiplication match Jesus' Great Commission?**

Leader Tip: Addition is you making disciples. Multiplication is your disciples making disciples. That's how the gospel spreads exponentially.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **Are the people you're investing in becoming disciple-makers themselves, or are they just followers?**
2. **How can you encourage your mentees to disciple others? What would that conversation sound like?**
3. **What would need to change for multiplication to happen in your ministry/influence?**
4. **Can you name someone you've discipled who is now discipling others? If not, what's missing?**

Leader Tip: Multiplication requires intentionality. We have to build it into our discipleship—it's not automatic.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Challenge someone you're discipling** to identify one person they can begin investing in
- **Support them** in taking their first steps as a disciple-maker (resources, encouragement, prayer)

- **Identify practical ways** to encourage your mentees to disciple others

Role Play: *Practice having a conversation where you challenge someone to start discipling another person. How would you frame it?*

Close in Prayer: Pray for multiplication. Ask God to raise up generations of disciple-makers through your investment.

Leader Note: This is the vision of The Foundry—not just shaped men, but men who shape others who shape others. Multiplication is the goal.

WEEK 44: Developing Leaders

Core Scripture: Exodus 18:21

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

Who saw leadership potential in you before you saw it in yourself? How did they develop that potential?

Leader Tip: This shows that leaders develop other leaders—it's intentional investment.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

Exodus 18:21 *"But select capable men from all the people—men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain—and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens."*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. Who could you be developing as a leader?

Leader Tip: This comes from Jethro's advice to Moses. Moses was doing everything himself until Jethro told him to develop leaders.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **What did Jethro tell Moses to do?**
2. **What qualities should Moses look for in these leaders?**
3. **What roles would these men fill?**

Leader Tip: The qualities matter: capable, God-fearing, trustworthy, hate dishonest gain. Character comes before competence.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **What qualities do you look for in potential leaders? Why do these qualities matter?**
2. **How can you encourage others to take on leadership roles without pushing them beyond their readiness?**
3. **Read the full context (Exodus 18:13-27). What was the problem Moses faced? How did delegation solve it?**
4. **How does developing leaders multiply your impact? Why can't you do everything yourself?**

Leader Tip: Developing leaders isn't just about getting help—it's about multiplying ministry and empowering others to use their gifts.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **Who in your life has leadership potential that needs to be developed?**
2. **What specific leadership task or responsibility could you delegate to someone you're mentoring?**
3. **What makes you hesitate to develop leaders? (Control? Fear they'll fail? Not wanting to let go?)**
4. **How can you create opportunities for others to lead, even if they make mistakes in the process?**

Leader Tip: We often hold onto leadership too tightly. Help people see that developing leaders requires releasing control and accepting some messiness.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Identify one person** you can begin developing as a leader
- **Delegate one responsibility** to them this week—give them a leadership opportunity
- **Encourage them** to take on a role (however small) in their family, work, or church

Group Discussion: *Reflect on Moses' delegation in Exodus 18. What can you learn from his willingness to let go?*

Close in Prayer: Pray for eyes to see potential leaders and wisdom to develop them well.

Leader Note: Leaders who don't develop other leaders create bottlenecks. Leaders who develop others create movements.

WEEK 45: Legacy of Faith

Core Scripture: Psalm 78:4-7

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

What's one spiritual truth or value you want to pass down to the next generation? Why does that matter to you?

Leader Tip: This helps people think about legacy before exploring what the Bible says about it.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

Psalm 78:4-7 *"We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done... so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands."*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. What spiritual legacy are you leaving?

Leader Tip: Legacy is about passing faith to the next generation—children, grandchildren, mentees, those who come after us.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **What should we tell the next generation?**
2. **Why is it important to pass this down? What's the purpose?**

3. **How many generations are mentioned? How far does this legacy go?**

Leader Tip: The goal is multi-generational faith—each generation teaching the next, who teaches the next...

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **What does it mean to leave a spiritual legacy? How is this different from just passing down information?**
2. **How are you passing down your faith to the next generation? (Your children, mentees, younger believers)**
3. **What steps can you take to intentionally leave a spiritual legacy?**
4. **Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9. What was God's plan for passing faith to the next generation? What can you learn from this?**

Leader Tip: Legacy happens through intentional, daily conversations and modeling. It's not a one-time talk—it's a lifestyle of discipleship.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **What story or lesson do you most want to pass down to your children, grandchildren, or mentees?**
2. **How are you currently investing in the next generation? Is it intentional or accidental?**
3. **If you died today, what spiritual legacy would you leave? Would people know you loved Jesus?**

4. **What needs to change for you to be more intentional about leaving a legacy of faith?**

Leader Tip: Legacy isn't about perfection—it's about faithfulness. What matters is that we point the next generation to Jesus.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Write a "legacy letter"** to your children, mentees, or the next generation—share your testimony and spiritual lessons
- **Share that letter** with someone this week (or save it for the right time)
- **Plan a family devotion** or mentoring session focused on God's faithfulness in your life

Reflection Exercise: *What do you want to be remembered for spiritually? Write it down.*

Close in Prayer: Pray for faithfulness in passing down faith. Thank God for those who passed faith to you.

Leader Note: The world doesn't need more successful Christians—it needs faithful Christians who raise up the next generation of disciples.

WEEK 46: Overcoming Challenges in Mentorship

Core Scripture: Galatians 6:9

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

What's the hardest part of investing in others? What challenges have you faced in mentoring or discipling?

Leader Tip: This acknowledges that discipleship is hard and sets up exploring how to persevere.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

Galatians 6:9 *"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. Where are you tempted to give up in mentoring?

Leader Tip: Mentoring is long-term work that requires perseverance. This verse promises a harvest if we don't quit.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **What are we told not to become?**
2. **What are we doing that might make us weary?**
3. **What is promised if we persevere?**

Leader Tip: "Doing good" includes discipling others. It's good work, but it can be exhausting. The harvest comes "in due time"—not immediately.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **Why does mentoring sometimes make us weary? What makes it tiring or discouraging?**

2. What does "in due time" suggest about the timeline of discipleship? Why is patience necessary?
3. Read Paul's perseverance in mentoring Timothy (1 & 2 Timothy). What challenges did Paul face? How did he persevere?
4. What does perseverance look like in a mentoring relationship when you don't see immediate results?

Leader Tip: Discipleship is slow work. We plant, water, and wait for God to bring growth. It requires faith to keep investing when we don't see fruit yet.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. What specific challenges have you faced (or do you anticipate facing) in mentoring others?
2. Where are you tempted to give up on someone you're investing in? What makes you want to quit?
3. What encouragement or support do you need to persevere in discipleship?
4. Can you think of someone who didn't give up on you, even when you were difficult? How did their perseverance affect you?

Leader Tip: Challenges include: lack of progress, disappointment, time constraints, mentee's sin or setbacks, feeling inadequate. Acknowledge these are real.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Identify one specific mentoring challenge** and seek counsel or resources to address it
- **Commit to encouraging a mentee** who may be struggling—don't give up on them

- **Find your own encouragement**—who can support you in your discipleship efforts?

Group Discussion: *Share challenges you're facing in mentoring. Pray for each other and share strategies that have helped.*

Close in Prayer: Pray for perseverance. Ask God for endurance, wisdom, and faith to see the harvest.

Leader Note: Discipleship is hard work that requires long-term faithfulness. But the harvest is worth it. Don't quit.

WEEK 47: Servant Leadership

Core Scripture: Mark 10:45

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

What's the difference between a boss and a leader? Which have you experienced, and how did it affect you?

Leader Tip: This highlights that true leadership is about serving, not just directing.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

Mark 10:45 *"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. How well are you serving those you lead?

Leader Tip: We covered this passage in Week 10, but now we're applying it specifically to leadership in discipleship.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **Why did Jesus come?**
2. **What two things did He do?**
3. **Who is the ultimate model of leadership?**

Leader Tip: Jesus is the model. If He came to serve, how much more should we serve those we lead?

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **How does Jesus redefine leadership in this passage? How is it different from worldly leadership?**
2. **What does servant leadership look like in discipleship? How do you serve those you're mentoring?**
3. **Read Mark 10:35-45 for fuller context. What prompted Jesus' teaching here? What were James and John asking for?**
4. **What barriers prevent you from serving others wholeheartedly in your leadership?**

Leader Tip: Worldly leadership is about power and position. Kingdom leadership is about service and sacrifice.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **How can you embody servant leadership in your life—at home, work, in discipleship?**
2. **Do you lead by serving, or do you expect to be served? Be honest.**
3. **Think of someone you're leading or mentoring. What do they need from you? How can you serve them this week?**
4. **If Jesus gave His life to serve, what does that mean for how you approach leadership?**

Leader Tip: Servant leadership isn't weakness—it's strength used for others' benefit. It's power under control.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Serve someone in your community** in a tangible way this week
- **Ask someone you're mentoring:** "How can I serve you better?"
- **Reflect on how serving others** impacts your leadership—journal about it

Group Activity: *Plan and execute a service project together. Model servant leadership as a group.*

Close in Prayer: Pray for servant hearts. Ask God to help each person lead like Jesus—by serving.

Leader Note: The greatest leaders are the greatest servants. We lead best when we serve most.

WEEK 48: Encouraging Spiritual Growth

Core Scripture: Colossians 1:9-10

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

Who has encouraged your spiritual growth the most? What did they do that helped you grow?

Leader Tip: This shows the power of encouragement in spiritual development.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

Colossians 1:9-10 *"For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God."*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. How can you encourage someone's spiritual growth this week?

Leader Tip: Paul's prayer shows what spiritual growth looks like: knowing God's will, living worthy of Him, bearing fruit, growing in knowledge of God.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **What has Paul been doing for the Colossians?**
2. **What does he pray they'll be filled with?**
3. **What are the results of being filled with this knowledge? (List them)**

Leader Tip: Paul prays for: knowledge of God's will, wisdom, understanding, living worthy of the Lord, pleasing Him, bearing fruit, growing. That's comprehensive spiritual growth!

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **How does Paul encourage spiritual growth in those he's mentoring? What's his strategy?**
2. **What's the connection between knowing God's will and living a fruitful life?**
3. **How can you encourage those you mentor to grow spiritually? What practical steps can you take?**
4. **What areas of your own growth need attention so you can model it for others?**

Leader Tip: Encouraging spiritual growth involves: prayer, teaching spiritual disciplines, modeling growth, creating accountability, and celebrating progress.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **Are you praying for the spiritual growth of those you're investing in? Specifically, what do you pray?**
2. **How can you inspire spiritual disciplines in your mentees? (Prayer, Bible study, worship, service, etc.)**
3. **What's one area where you can model spiritual growth for others this week?**
4. **How do you celebrate and encourage growth when you see it in someone you're mentoring?**

Leader Tip: We can't force growth in others, but we can create environments where growth is likely—through prayer, modeling, teaching, and encouragement.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Pray Paul's prayer** (Col 1:9-10) for someone you're mentoring—adapt it to their situation
- **Recommend a devotional or Bible study** to your mentee
- **Strengthen your own spiritual discipline** this week—you can't give what you don't have

Close in Prayer: Pray for the spiritual growth of those you're investing in. Use Colossians 1:9-10 as a template.

Leader Note: We're called to encourage growth, not produce it. The Holy Spirit does the transforming work—we create space for it.

WEEK 49: Reflecting on the Journey

Core Scripture: Psalm 77:11-12

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

When you think back over this past year, what stands out as the most significant moment or lesson?

Leader Tip: This is a reflection week. Create space for people to look back and process.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

Psalm 77:11-12 *"I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds."*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. How has God worked in your life this year?

Leader Tip: Remembering what God has done strengthens faith. It's important to pause and reflect.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **What does the psalmist say he will do?**
2. **What specifically will he remember?**
3. **What action verbs are used? (remember, consider, meditate)**

Leader Tip: Remembering is active, intentional work. It's not passive—it requires deliberate reflection.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **Why is it important to remember what God has done? How does remembering build faith?**
2. **What has been the most significant lesson or experience for you during this journey?**
3. **How have you seen God at work in your life and the lives of others in the group this year?**
4. **What's the value of pausing to reflect rather than just rushing to the next thing?**

Leader Tip: Reflection helps us see God's faithfulness, learn from experiences, and gain perspective on growth.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

Note: These questions are designed for extended sharing. Take your time—this is a significant moment.

1. **How have you grown spiritually over the past year? What's different about you now compared to when you started?**
2. **What breakthrough or "aha moment" stands out from this year?**
3. **How has this group impacted your faith journey? What have these men meant to you?**
4. **Looking back, where do you clearly see God's hand in your life this year?**

Leader Tip: This week should feel celebratory and reflective. Give people permission to share freely—don't rush this conversation.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Write a personal prayer or letter to God** thanking Him for His work in your life this year
- **Journal about your spiritual growth**—what are the biggest changes?
- **Share one key lesson** with someone outside the group to encourage their faith

Group Sharing: *Go around and share: one way you've grown, one thing you're grateful for from this year, and one thing you're taking forward.*

Close in Prayer: Thank God for His faithfulness throughout this journey. Celebrate what He's done in each person's life.

Leader Note: Week 49 is a hinge point—looking back to see progress and looking forward to what's next. Make space for gratitude and celebration.

WEEK 50: Encouraging One Another

Core Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:11

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

What's the most encouraging thing someone has said to you in the past year? Why did it mean so much?

Leader Tip: This highlights the power of encouragement before exploring the biblical mandate.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

1 Thessalonians 5:11 *"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. Who needs your encouragement this week?

Leader Tip: Paul commends them for already doing this, but tells them to keep doing it. Encouragement should be ongoing.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **What two things are we called to do?**
2. **Who are we to encourage and build up?**

3. **What does Paul acknowledge they're already doing?**

Leader Tip: Encourage and build up—both are active, intentional. And "one another" means it's reciprocal, not one-directional.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **What's the difference between encouraging and building up? How are they related?**
2. **Why is encouragement so important in the body of Christ? What does it accomplish?**
3. **How has this group encouraged you during the past year?**
4. **How can you encourage and support others as they continue their journey?**

Leader Tip: Encouragement literally means "to put courage in." We help each other keep going when the journey gets hard.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. **Who in this group has encouraged you most this year? How can you thank them?**
2. **How can you be a better encourager going forward? What specific actions would that include?**
3. **Looking at the men in this group, what growth do you see in each person? How can you affirm that?**
4. **As this journey ends, how can you remain connected for ongoing encouragement and accountability?**

Leader Tip: This is a great time for affirmation. Consider having each person write an encouragement note to another group member.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Write a note of encouragement** to each person in your group—share one way you've seen them grow
- **Commit to staying connected**—how will you continue to encourage each other after this ends?
- **Identify one person outside this group** who needs encouragement and reach out to them

Affirmation Exercise: *Each person shares one thing they appreciate about the person to their right.*

Close in Prayer: Thank God for this community. Pray for ongoing encouragement and connection.

Leader Note: Week 50 is about gratitude for the journey together and commitment to ongoing community. Transition from this structured year to what comes next.

WEEK 51: Looking Ahead – Preparing for the Next Season

Core Scripture: Philippians 3:13-14

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Connect to lived experience

What's one area where you feel God calling you to grow in the next season? What's He stirring in you?

Leader Tip: This helps people look forward rather than just backward. The journey doesn't end at Week 52.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

Philippians 3:13-14 *"Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. What is God calling you toward?

Leader Tip: Paul doesn't live in the past—he presses forward. We honor the journey, but we don't stop moving.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **What does Paul say he doesn't consider himself to have done?**
2. **What "one thing" does Paul do?**
3. **What is Paul pressing toward?**

Leader Tip: Paul forgets the past (both failures and successes) and strains forward. He's not finished—he keeps pursuing Christ.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. What does it mean to "forget what is behind"? Should we really forget everything?
2. Paul says he's "straining toward what is ahead." What does that intensity look like in daily life?
3. What is the "goal" and "prize" Paul is pursuing? What should we be pressing toward?
4. How can you apply what you've learned this year to future challenges and opportunities?

Leader Tip: "Forgetting" doesn't mean amnesia—it means not being defined or limited by the past. We learn from it, then move forward.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

How does this intersect with your life right now?

1. What is one area where you feel God calling you to grow in the next season?
2. What would you do differently in the coming year based on what you've learned?
3. What "past" do you need to let go of to press forward? (Past failures? Past successes that you're resting on?)
4. If you keep pressing forward like Paul, what would your life look like in 5 years?

Leader Tip: The year is ending, but the journey isn't. Help people see this as a beginning, not an end.

6. ACTION STEPS (5-8 min)

What will you do this week?

Individual Commitment:

- **Set 2-3 spiritual goals** for the next year—write them down
- **Write a personal mission statement or Scripture focus** for the coming year

- **Share your goals** with an accountability partner from the group

Vision Casting: *As a group, discuss: How can you continue the impact? Will you start your own Foundry groups? How will you invest in others?*

Close in Prayer: Pray for the next season. Ask God to guide each person's next steps and to use this year's growth exponentially.

Leader Note: Week 51 is about transition—celebrating what was while preparing for what's next. Cast vision for ongoing growth and multiplication.

WEEK 52: A Charge to Continue the Journey

Core Scripture: Matthew 6:33

1. OPENING QUESTION (5-7 min)

Celebrate and look forward

In one word or phrase, how would you describe this year? Why?

Leader Tip: Go around quickly. This creates a snapshot of the journey from each person's perspective.

2. FOCAL SCRIPTURE (3-5 min)

Read aloud and reflect

Matthew 6:33 *"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."*

Silent Reflection: Take 30 seconds. What does seeking God's kingdom first look like for you going forward?

Leader Tip: This verse captures the heart of the whole year—prioritizing God above everything else.

3. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (10-12 min)

What does the passage actually say?

1. **What are we called to seek first?**
2. **What two things should we prioritize?**
3. **What is promised when we seek first?**

Leader Tip: Kingdom and righteousness—those are the priorities. Everything else follows from seeking God first.

4. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (12-15 min)

What does this mean? What's the principle?

1. **What does it mean to seek God's kingdom first? What does that look like practically?**
2. **How has this year helped you prioritize God's kingdom in your life?**
3. **What will you prioritize in the next phase of your journey with God?**
4. **How have you grown over the past year? What's different about you now?**

Leader Tip: This is the final teaching moment. Emphasize that the principles learned this year are lifelong—keep seeking first.

5. PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15-18 min)

Celebration and commissioning

Note: This is the final week. Make space for extended sharing and celebration.

1. **How have you grown over the past year? (Be specific—character, faith, relationships, impact)**
2. **What from this year will you carry forward into the rest of your life?**
3. **Who are you going to invest in next? How will you multiply what you've learned?**
4. **What's your "charge" going forward? If this group commissioned you today, what would your mission be?**

Leader Tip: This should feel momentous. You're sending people out as disciple-makers. Make it significant.

6. ACTION STEPS AND COMMISSIONING (10-15 min)

What comes next?

Individual Commitment:

- **Identify one new goal or focus area** for the coming year
- **Pair up with someone** from the group for ongoing accountability
- **Begin discipling someone new**—don't wait

Celebration: *Share personal testimonies of growth over the year. Celebrate what God has done!*

Commitment Ceremony: *Have each person share (or write) a personal mission statement or commitment for the next year.*

Final Charge: *Leader, speak a charge over the group: You have been shaped—now go shape others. You have been discipled—now go make disciples. You are men forged in the Foundry—now go forge others.*

Close in Prayer: Dedicate yourselves and the group to God's ongoing work. Pray for continued growth, boldness to disciple others, and multiplication of impact. Commission each person to go and make disciples.

Leader Note: This is graduation day. Celebrate the journey, honor the growth, and commission them to go multiply. The Foundry's goal is realized: men shaped by God who now shape others.

The journey doesn't end—it multiplies.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS - FINAL QUARTER (Weeks 40-52)

Reflection on the Complete Journey

Congratulations! You've completed The Foundry—a full year of intentional discipleship and transformation.

Final Journaling Prompts:

1. **How are you different today than you were 52 weeks ago?**
 2. **What was the most significant lesson God taught you this year?**
 3. **Who will you invest in next? What's your multiplication plan?**
 4. **How will you stay connected to the men in your group?**
 5. **What does the next year of your discipleship journey look like?**
-

The Vision of The Foundry - Fulfilled

The Foundry's purpose was to shape men who shape others. Here's what you've accomplished:

Weeks 1-12: FOUNDATION

- You learned what it means to be shaped by God
- You developed core disciplines and character
- You prepared for God's call on your life

Weeks 13-26: FORMATION

- You walked through trials with faith
- You built character: integrity, love, contentment, self-control
- You learned to walk by the Spirit

Weeks 27-39: INFLUENCE

- You impacted your spheres: family, work, community
- You learned to evangelize and steward resources
- You pursued holiness and walked in the Spirit

Weeks 40-52: MULTIPLICATION

- You learned to disciple others
 - You developed leaders and left a legacy
 - You prepared to multiply disciples who make disciples
-

What Comes Next?

For Individuals:

1. **Continue your growth**—don't stop here
2. **Start discipling someone**—use this guide with them
3. **Stay connected** to your accountability partners
4. **Set new goals** for the next year

For Groups:

1. **Consider going through The Foundry again** with new men
 2. **Stay connected** as brothers—don't drift apart
 3. **Plan ongoing gatherings**—monthly check-ins, quarterly retreats
 4. **Multiply**—each of you start your own groups
-

Suggested Worship Songs - Final Quarter

1. **"Great Are You Lord"** - All Sons & Daughters
 2. **"Christ Be Magnified"** - Cody Carnes
 3. **"Build My Life"** - Housefires
 4. **"The Blessing"** - Kari Jobe
 5. **"King of Kings"** - Hillsong Worship
 6. **"Goodness of God"** - Bethel Music
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Final Encouragement

You began this journey as men who wanted to be used by God.

You end it as men who are being used by God—and who will raise up others to be used by God.

This is the vision of The Foundry: Multiplication.

Not just shaped men, but men who shape others. Not just disciples, but disciple-makers. Not just transformed lives, but transforming influence.

The clay has been shaped.

The iron has been forged.

Now go—and do the same for others.

"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others." - 2 Timothy 2:2

A Final Prayer

Father,

Thank You for this year. Thank You for how You've shaped each of these men. Thank You for the growth, the breakthroughs, the struggles that refined us.

Now send us out. Give us boldness to make disciples. Give us wisdom to invest in others. Give us perseverance to see it through.

Multiply this investment. Let these men raise up others, who raise up others, who raise up others—generations of disciples for Your glory.

May we be faithful stewards of what You've entrusted to us.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

THE FOUNDRY

Where Men Are Shaped to Shape Others

You are not the same man you were 52 weeks ago.

Now go—and shape others.

