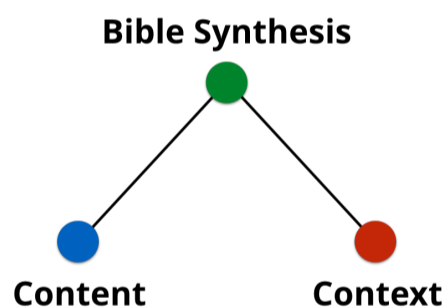


## Bible Synthesis

To be an effective disciple maker, you must plan and be intentional. If we understand the biblical paradigm for becoming a disciple, then we must plan and faithfully lead others into that lifestyle. Our plan, then, is not too difficult to develop when we understand the biblical paradigm. We must think through and develop strategies to teach, equip, and relationally walk through the real-life learning process of pursuing Jesus where He is and for what He provides to them. This will entail teaching the knowledge components from a biblical perspective and also guiding them in how to practically embrace, put their faith in, and set their minds on these new truths.

You must teach them about who Jesus is, where He is in the fellowship of the Trinity, and what His specific role is in the Trinity. You need to consider a systematic approach to teaching the disciple the foundational truth found in Jesus and His work on the cross for them (identity, freedom from the flesh, etc.), and also the broader will of the Father for them. You also need to teach them about the Spirit, how He works in their lives, and how they can relate to Him. They must understand these concepts and have you walk them through its application in their real-life setting.

It becomes tempting, for the sake of ease, to allow your discipleship plan to be driven by the path of least resistance. We often choose to go the easy route—the most common option being the study of Christian books written by well-meaning authors. There is a place for external resources like these, but it's imperative that those you are discipling grapple with understanding God's truth and His will from encountering it in His Word. In this way, they come to view God's Word as the authority for life. They also develop techniques for reading, studying, understanding, and applying His Word to their real-life setting.



When we seek to embark on a practical approach to discipleship, we are faced with what appears to be a paradox. On one hand the Bible claims to be the sole source of spiritual life transformation and on the other hand we see the reality of life lived in a fallen context. Two seemingly opposed concepts that never seem to unite in practice. This is precisely why we want to introduce the concept of Bible Synthesis. We believe that the expressed purpose of discipleship is to merge biblical truth with the context of real life. In fact, we establish those two primary areas as the focus of Bible Synthesis: content and context.

In discipleship, we strive to focus on investing our efforts to see the life changing content of the Bible impact and transform the context of people's everyday lives. This requires good planning and evaluation as you build into the life of your disciple, however there is one practical step that needs addressed if Bible Synthesis is to take place - Bible Study.

A crucial starting point in Bible Synthesis is to learn the process of Bible Study. You must always remember that your objective with your disciple is to make him/her a disciple and disciplemaker. With this vision in mind, from day one, you must take steps to anchor their life in the authority of the Word of God. This not only happens by telling them this, but it also comes by modeling it to them through teaching them to engage the Word for themselves and living under God's authority in your own life.

There is a particular study approach that we highly recommend (and many have found helpful) as you study personally and with others. To find our full Bible Study curriculum with accompanying videos, visit the Equip section of the HCC website or app. You should familiarize yourself with these principles and steps before taking your disciple through this process.

When you begin this process, be sure to remember these three important guiding principles:

- **Be Patient.** As you introduce your disciple to this process, go very slow and give them ample time to learn and practice each of the Bible study steps.
- **Encourage.** Be sure to praise and encourage each step of the way as they grow in their Bible study aptitude.
- **Pursue Coaching.** If you are unsure of certain Bible study steps or are struggling with helping your disciple to learn the steps, reach out to your Missional Community Leaders for help. If you need assistance as a Missional Community Leader, contact your coach for help. Do not quit or settle for mediocrity merely because you have reached a stalemate. Help is always available, so use it to its fullest potential.