

growth track one | RCC Life



Week Two



Essentials 201

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WELCOME TO ESSENTIALS 201

THE BASICS FOR THIS CLASS

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.” Colossians 2.6-7

UNDERSTANDING BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY

“And for an entire year they met with the church and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.” Acts 11.26

1. Before followers of Jesus were called “Christians”, they were known as _____.
2. As disciples, we develop _____ through: 4 basic disciplines (habits) that help you root yourself in Jesus and this new life.

- Bible learning and prayer

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching ... and to prayer.”
-Acts 2.42

- Fellowship with other believers

“They devoted themselves to...fellowship.” -Acts 2.42

- Living a Spirit-led life

“Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the Apostles.” -Acts 2.43

- Giving of ourselves

“They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need”
- Acts 2.45

THE GOAL OF THIS CLASS

That I will _____ to the habits (disciplines) necessary to stay connected to Jesus and to develop spiritual maturity through Him.

HABIT ONE: BIBLE LEARNING & PRAYER

“The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right. It is God’s way of making us well prepared at every point, fully equipped to do good to everyone.” 2 Timothy 3.16-17

A vibrant relationship with God is sustained through Bible learning and prayer.

A). HOW DO I LEARN FROM MY BIBLE?

1. I must _____ God’s Truth as greater than my truth.

- I _____ scripture with an open heart.

“Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root... Therefore consider carefully how you listen.” Luke 8.13-18

- I _____ to the Bible with obedience.

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” James 1.22

2. I must _____ its truths.

- _____ God’s voice in the Bible.

“Faith comes by hearing the word of God.” - Romans 10.17

- _____ the Bible.

*“Happy is the one who reads this book ... and obeys what is written in it!”
-Revelation 1.3*

- _____ the Bible.

*“...they accepted the message most eagerly and studied the Scriptures every day.”
-Acts 17.11*

- _____the Bible .

“Guard my words as your most precious possession. Write them down, and also keep them deep within your heart.” Proverbs 7.2-3

- _____the Bible.

3. I must _____ its principles.

“Once you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.” John 13.17

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” James 1.22

B). UNDESTANDING PRAYER

“Pray without ceasing.” 1 Thessalonians 5.17

1. In my daily prayer time, I am:

- _____ devotion to God.

“(Hezekiah) was successful, because everything he did ... he did in a spirit of complete devotion to his God.” 2 Chronicles 31.21

- _____ direction from God.

“Show me the path where I should go, O Lord; point out the right road for me to walk. Lead me.” Psalm 25.4-5 (LB)

- _____ in my relationship with God.

“Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.” John 17.25-26

2. Use the model Jesus gave us.

“One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When He finished, one of his disciples said to him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray.’” -Luke 11.1

This, then, is how you should pray:

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one, for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.” -Matthew 6.9-13

- Connect with God _____.

“Our Father in heaven”

- Revere _____.

“Hallowed be your name”

- Pray _____ first.

“Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven”

- Depend on Him for _____.

“Give us today our daily bread”

- Keep your _____ with God and people.

“Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors”

- _____ God's protection from the enemy

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”

- _____ in God's majesty and ability.

“For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.”

HABIT TWO: FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER BELIEVERS

“Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another.” Hebrews 10.25

We believe Reading City Church, and the church in general, must grow LARGER and SMALLER at the same time.

“They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” Acts 2.46-47

“(They met) day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house.” Acts 5.42

“You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house.” Acts 20.20

How can our church grow larger yet maintain close relationships?

By every Sunday Morning attendees choosing to belong to a _____ within RCC.

WHY ARE SMALLER GROUPS IMPORTANT?

Small Groups provide opportunities for:

1. _____
I need people to strengthen and balance the Word of God in my life.
2. _____
To BE His church, I need to be in close relationship with other believers.
3. _____
I need people to pray for me personally and I need to pray for the needs of others.
4. _____
I need to be in an environment that seeks to help one another with practical needs.
5. _____
I need to be with a group of people that seek to love and serve those outside themselves as well.

“So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” John 13:34-35

HOW DO I GET CONNECTED WITH A SMALLER GROUP?

1. Find a group
 - Missional Communities -
 - Women's Ministries -
 - Men's Ministries -
 - Reborn Youth -
2. Commit for a season
3. Chose to belong

HABIT THREE: LIVING A SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE

"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." 2 Corinthians 13.14

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Ruach – a wind, breath, a violent exhalation, blast of breath. Hebrew word

"Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters." Genesis 1.2

Pneuma – a current of air, blast of breath, a strong breeze. Greek word

"The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life." John 6.63 (NIV 1984)

1. **The Holy Spirit is a**_____.

"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever." John 14.16 (NASB)

2. **The Third Person in the**_____.

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."
John 14.26 (NASB)

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S ROLE IN OUR LIVES

“Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, ‘Which,’ He said, ‘you heard of from Me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.’” Acts 1.4-8

1. The Holy Spirit enables us to know God's:

- _____.

“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever.” -John 14.16

- _____.

“But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.” -John 16.5-8

2. The Holy Spirit empowers us to live with Christ's...

- _____.

“For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.” -2 Corinthians 3.17-18

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” -Galatians 5.22-23

- _____.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” -Acts 1.8

3. The Holy Spirit equips us with:

- _____.

"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit... Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines."
1 Corinthians 12.4-11

- _____.

*"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will **prophesy**, your young men will see **visions**, your old men will dream **dreams**. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below... And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."* Acts 2.17-21

*"Among the prophet and teachers of the church at Antioch of Syria were Barnabas, Simeon (called "the black man"), Lucius (from Cyrene), Manaen (the childhood companion of King Herod Antipas), and Saul. One day as these men were worshiping the Lord and fasting, **the Holy Spirit said**, 'Dedicate Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have called them.' So after more fasting and prayer, the men laid their hands on them and send them on their way."* Acts 13.1-3

HOW DO I LIVE A SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE?

1. **Remove all** _____.

"Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'" -Acts 2.38

2. **Request the** _____.

"Now suppose one of your fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? Or if he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?" -Luke 11.11-13

3. **Receive Him** _____.

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." -1 Peter 4.10

4. **Relate to Him** _____.

"The amazing grace of the Master, Jesus Christ, the extravagant love of God, the intimate friendship of the Holy Spirit, be with all of you." 2 Corinthians 13.14

5. **Release your** _____ **with confidence.**

"Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church." -1 Corinthians 14:12

HABIT FOUR: GIVING OF OURSELVES

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3.16

The Gospel is the ultimate demonstration of God's generous nature towards mankind.

In response to the Gospel, we give.

THREE AREAS OF GIVING

1. Give of our _____.

“Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil.” Ephesians 5.15-16

2. Give of our _____.

*“A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.”
1 Corinthians 12.7*

3. Give of our _____.

“If your gift is... giving, give generously.” Romans 12.8

*“Yes, you should tithe, but do not neglect the more important things”
Matthew 23.23*

BENEFITS OF GIVING

1. **Giving draws us _____ to God.**

"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." -Matthew 6.21

2. **Giving is the antidote to_____.**

"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to be generous and willing to share. In this way they may take hold of the life that is truly life." -1Timothy 6.17-19

3. **Giving strengthens our_____.**

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding... Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of your income, and he will fill your barns to overflowing." -Prov. 3.4-5, 9-10

"Give and it will be given to you... For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you." - Luke 6.38

4. **Giving is an investment in_____.**

"Give happily to those in need, and always be ready to share whatever God has given you. By doing this, you will be storing up real treasure for yourselves in heaven - it is the only safe investment for eternity!" -1Timothy 6.18-19

BIBLICAL GENEROSITY IS:

1. _____.

"For if the willingness is there, your gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one doesn't have." 2 Corinthians 8.12

"Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion." 2 Corinthians 9:7a

2. _____.

"...for God loves a cheerful giver!" 2 Corinthians 9.7b

3. _____.

*"They gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service."
2 Corinthians 8.3-4*

4. _____.

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; and whoever sows generously also will reap generously." 2 Corinthians 9:6

"They gave themselves first to the Lord." 2 Corinthians 8.5