



FIRST PRINCIPLES

This study guide is an amalgam of several other Bible series and years of hard work by disciples of Jesus around the globe.

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John Markowski, Editor

INTRODUCTION

The good news of Jesus has been taught from generation to generation since his life, ministry & message first went public 2000 years ago.

As his followers, we are commissioned to carry on the legacy of our Lord & teach others the truth about him. For this task there is only one source we can trust completely, the Word of God.

This “First Principles” Bible study booklet is a compilation of several other evangelistic series.

The goal: to lead the lost to Jesus. **Luke 19:10**

While any Bible study series is constructed by people, & therefore imperfect, the Scriptures are authored by God, & perfect. **2 Timothy 3:16**

No one can ever change the Word of God, but these studies might need to be edited in order to help someone in the conversion process.

Proceed carefully & courageously: teaching the Word of God is no trivial task. Christians teaching the Bible cannot just rely on a study series to do the work of conversion. They must pray for wisdom, search the Scriptures & consider the needs of the friends they are helping.

However, those same Christians must not shrink back from boldly proclaiming the truth of God’s Word to their friends. **Hebrews 10:39**

Teachers make mistakes! It’s a good thing love covers over a multitude of sins. **1 Peter 4:8**

Remember the love shown to you as you studied the Bible to follow Christ. Go & do likewise. **Luke 10:37**

TEACHER TIPS

PRAYER

We pray about the things most important to us. Helping someone know God is as important as it gets. As teachers of scripture, we pray for wisdom so we may correctly handle the Word of truth. Pray for God's Spirit to guide you. Pray to treat your friend with compassion & conviction like Jesus would. Pray for hearts to be open toward God's Word. Pray continually. 1 Thessalonians 5:17.

PARTNERSHIP

1 Thessalonians 2:8 *"We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us."*

Be Friends. People need to know you care about them. Get to know your friends and let them get to know you as well. Have them in your home. Have them spend time with your family/roommates as well as getting time in their home with theirs. If meeting in a home isn't possible for a Bible study, make sure to choose a place where you are able to speak freely & safely.

POWER

Remember The Power Source. Let the Word of God speak. You don't have to force anything unnatural. Speak the truth in love, but remember God has the power to make it grow! **1 Corinthians 3:5-9**. Keep in mind that different people learn at different paces. **Mark 4:33**. Before moving to another study make sure they are putting into practice what they have learned. **Matt 7:24-27**

PERSONAL Example

1 Timothy 4:16 "Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers."

Teaching scriptures to others inspires us to live a life worthy of imitation.

- * **On Time**. Integrity. **Matthew 5:37** Let your yes be yes. Not only starting on time but finishing. Try to keep each study under 90 minutes.
- * **Organized**. Planning ahead. **1 Peter 3:15** Be prepared to answer.
- * **Open** with your life because you expect them to be the same.
- * **Opportunity** to serve [rides to church, help at home, etc.] **1 Peter 4:10** Use your gift to serve others.
- * **On Task**, willing to answer questions but focused on what matters & avoiding strong emotion. **Titus 3:9** No quarreling.

PROPER Tools

Make sure your friend has a Bible with a good translation they can readily understand. If not, a great gesture would be to buy your friend a Bible.

- * Use a translation that will be the **MOST CLEAR** & reduce confusion.
- * Teaching the Bible doesn't mean having all the answers but it does mean correctly handling the truth. **2 Tim 2:15**
- * Prepare to teach the Bible by understanding the context of the passages ahead of time & knowing the purpose of each study.
- * Try NOT to bring this booklet to the bible study. Instead, use this resource to prepare ahead of time [make your own notes].

PULL PEOPLE In

Get Help. Ask advice [*with discretion*] from mature Christians who can help you lead the studies. Connect your friend with other brothers & sisters in the fellowship. Invite them to join the bible studies.

- * They can take notes.
- * Where two or more are gathered. Matthew 18:20
- * Relatable Factor: Different life experiences.
- * Blind Spots: We don't see everything or forget.
- * If one can't make a study, others can continue
John 4:37. What one sows, another reaps.

DEFER & REFER: Teachers must have the humility to defer a question to someone with more experience/knowledge on a subject & be willing to refer if an issue arises that demands expert &/or professional help. [*Substance abuse, sexual addiction, mental illness, legal trouble...*]

POSE Questions

Jesus was a "master-asker," always probing deeper into hearts with insightful questions. More often than not, asking a question will help someone find an answer on their own [deep], rather than having it told to them [shallow]. **Proverbs 20:5**. Be the teacher of understanding who can draw out the deepest of thoughts & emotions.

This study series is geared specifically for questions & answers. Most scriptures will have questions accompanying them to promote deeper teaching & discussion. Create a question-friendly environment for friends to feel safe to clarify, re-visit or even disagree with something. This is not an assembly line. The goal is not just to pass on information, but to plant & water the seed of faith deeply into the soil of searching souls.