

# Discipleship Guide

Jesus said:

„All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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.“ (Matthew 28:18-20)

For a person to become a mature disciple of Jesus Christ, they must first be born-again, and then they need to be taught how to live as Jesus commanded us. To do this, the following process can be followed:

0. Evangelism
1. Gospel Foundations
2. Christian Way of Life
3. Discovery and use of Gifts
4. Faithful in opposition; Future glory
5. Servant Leadership (The Big Picture)

This document will help you to guide a new believer in Christ through steps 0 and 1, so that they can have a sure footing in their new life in Christ!

# 0. Evangelism

A person may have responded to Christ, or come forward at an altar call, for a number of reasons. It is important to now help this seeker/believer understand exactly what they have done, and also for you to know exactly where they stand.

Here is some information to pass on, and some questions that you should ask them, to make sure they are coming to Christ for the right reasons:

The decision to become a follower of Jesus is the most important decision you will ever make in your life. It affects everything you will ever do, both now and for eternity. But it is the best decision you can ever make!

Jesus Christ said: **"Come to me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light"** (Matthew 11:28-30)

Jesus also said: **"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me"** (John 14:6) and **"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly"** (John 10:10).

Allow me to ask you a few questions:

**Do you believe there is a God who created the universe? (yes/no)**

The Bible says:

**"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."** (Genesis 1:1)

**"By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of His mouth."** (Psalm 33:6)

**God created us human beings because He loves us, and He wants us to experience abundant eternal life as we obey Him. Do you understand this? (yes/no)**

The Bible says:

**"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 a hope and a future."** (Jeremiah 29:11)

**"Walk in all the way that the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess."** (Deuteronomy 5:33)

**Unfortunately we have all done wrong and sinned against God – that’s why the world and our lives are and have been in such a mess. Do you admit that you are a sinner? (yes/no)**

The Bible says:

**“All of us have sinned and fallen short of God’s glory.” (Romans 3:23)**

**“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Romans 6:23)**

**But because God loves us so much, He sent His own Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross as the penalty for our sins, and rise again so that we could have this abundant eternal life again as we follow Jesus. Do you believe that Jesus died for your sins and can give you eternal life as you follow Him? (yes/no)**

The Bible says:

**“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. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.” (John 3:16,17)**

**“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, He was buried, and three days later He was raised to life according to the Scriptures.” (1 Corinthians 15:3b,4)**

Jesus said: **“For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.” (John 6:40)**

**We now need to receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and master, and then we will enter into the abundant life that God always wanted for us to have. Do you desire to turn away from your sins, turn back to God, ask Him for forgiveness, and bow to Jesus to make Him the Lord and master of your life and begin following Him? (yes/no)**

The Bible says:

**“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household.” (Acts 16:31)**

**“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (Romans 10:13)**

**“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” (Matthew 4:19)**

If you have answered "yes" to all these questions, you are ready to become a follower of Jesus, and become part of our community! It is appropriate that you now pray a prayer like this and be baptised after Gospel Foundations have been laid in your life:

**Dear God,  
thank you that you love me  
thank you that you sent Jesus to die for my sins  
I am so sorry for my sins (*name them here*)  
please forgive me  
I don't want to sin any more  
I believe that Jesus died for me  
I believe that Jesus rose from the dead again.  
And Lord Jesus, I want You to be the Lord of my life  
and I want to follow You  
Please help me.  
Thank you Lord God  
in Jesus name I pray,  
Amen.**

### **My Decision**

Today I have prayed the above prayer with all my heart.  
I have received Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour and will trust in, rely upon  
and adhere to Him as my Lord.

Name:

Date:

# 1. Gospel Foundations

Before a person gets baptized, especially in our day and age when many people have no real clear idea of the foundational message of the Bible, it is important to lead these new believers through a guided Bible study series, so that important foundational Bible doctrines are laid in their life. Then, they can be baptized with all their mind – they know what they are getting themselves into!

This involves progressive Bible studies through the following material, concluding with Baptism:

- a) Genesis 1:1 - 12:9
- b) Isaiah 61
- c) Luke 4
- d) An overview of the Six Steps to abundant life
- e) Teaching concerning what it really means to be a Christian. This involves studying the Gospel of Mark in the Bible. In modern terms, you could say it is like reading the “Christian Life Charter”.
- f) Baptising new believers and receiving the Holy Spirit. If they still desire to be a follower of Jesus Christ and be a committed Christian, prepare them for baptism by studying Hebrews 6:1,2 and Romans 6:1-11 with them. Then baptize them by full immersion at a suitable place which has enough water!, and then pray for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit.

These steps are now explained:

## a,b,c) Genesis 1:1 – 12:9; Isaiah 61; Luke 4

Each week, have a personal Bible study with the believer, in which you go through these chapters of the Bible one section at a time. The following method is suggested:

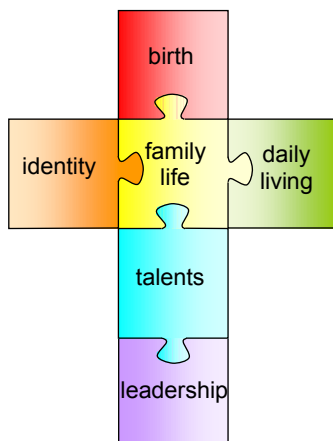
- Make sure that you have read the section first yourself at home, asking the Lord to reveal to you what you should communicate to the new growing disciple.
- When you come together for the Bible study, pray together, asking the Lord to bless you as you read and study His Word, and ask Him to give you understanding so that you might learn what He wants you to learn in this study.
- Read the chapter(s) allocated, out loud, either with one person reading the whole lot, or alternating sections.
- Ask them what struck them, what they thought was really interesting.
- Ask them what they didn't understand.
- Now, guide them through the thoughts which you understand to be the major important ideas and concepts. What follows is a table outlining the major thoughts or concepts that should be communicated for each section. You may have others that the Lord inspires you to be important.
- At the end of each session, close with prayer.

Passage	Important concepts / options which should be covered
Creation (Gen 1)	<p>God is the Creator of all things. Evolution is false. God created humans in His image. Everything was perfect to begin with: no death, all vegetarian.</p> <p><b>Jesus: Nothing was created without Jesus, and in Him all things hold together (Colossians 1:15-17)</b></p>
Humankind (Gen 2)	<p>How man and woman were made. The job descriptions given to man and woman. The nature of the male-female relationship, especially in marriage.</p> <p><b>Jesus: Men and women are the same in status, but have different roles (Galatians 3:28; 1 Corinthians 11: 3, 11-12)</b></p>
The Fall (Gen 3 & Exodus 20)	<p>The existence of the devil. What the devil does. What sin is (roots of sin: covetousness, pride, unbelief). The result of sin in creation - the origin of suffering, death. God's three pronouncements (to the devil, the woman, the man). The significance of clothes (animal skins) in covering our shame.</p> <p>Exodus 20: The Ten Commandments – a clear basic guide to what sin is.</p> <p><b>Jesus: He has crushed the power of Satan (Colossians 2:13-15; Hebrews 2:14,15); In Jesus, Christian women no longer want to dominate their husbands, and Christian husbands no longer want to rule their wives (Ephesians 5:22-33); Pain in child-bearing, and a cursed earth, will remain until the new heaven and new earth (Revelation 21:1-5); The animal skins were a “type” for Jesus, who died so that our sins might be covered and forgiven (Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12; 61:10; John 1:29; Ephesians 1:7); Jesus has given us the Holy Spirit so that we no longer have to sin (Romans 8:1-11; Galatians 5:16-18, 24-25)</b></p>
Cain & Abel (Gen 4)	<p>“Two ways to religion” – the way of faith (sacrifice a lamb), the way of your own works. The first murder (springing from covetousness, pride, and unbelief about the right way to worship God!). The first city (built in rebellion against God – God originally wanted people to spread out and fill the earth, not stay in one place!). The first mention of the degrading of marriage – a man having two wives.</p> <p><b>Jesus: The right way to God is through faith in Jesus (the Lamb of God) and not our works (Ephesians 2:8-10; Hebrews 11:4; John 14:6). Jesus helps us to love our enemies (Matthew 5:43-48) and we will suffer for following His ways (Matthew 5:10-12) (There will always be discord among people over revealed religion). Jesus helps us to be missionary people, filling the earth (Matthew 28:19), and to be faithful to our one marriage partner (Matthew 5:27-32)</b></p>
Adam's Genealogy (Gen 5)	<p>In our family trees we can trace 'good lines' and 'bad lines'.</p> <p><b>Jesus: Because of our faith in Jesus, we are adopted into the family of God! (John 1:10-13), and cut off from our evil ancestry!! (Ephesians 1:5-14; 2:19; 2 Corinthians 5:17)</b></p>
Noah: earth corrupt, ark, flood (Gen 6, 7)	<p>The final degradation of sex and marriage: harems, demonic possession, and worse. There is a judgement day for sin. There was a worldwide flood (which accounts for most of the fossils, canyons, coal &amp; oil deposits). The (few) people who believed God were saved.</p> <p><b>Jesus: If we believe in Jesus, we are saved from the coming Day of Judgement (John 5:24-30; Acts 17:29-31; 2 Peter 3); Jesus can set us free from demonic possession (Mark 1:21-28; Luke 8:1-2); As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be before Jesus comes back! (Matthew 24:36-51) At the end of the age, only (relatively) few will be saved (Matthew 7:13,14; Luke 18:6-8; cf Revelation 7:9-10)</b></p>

<p>Noah: re-creation, re-covenant (Gen 8:1-9:17)</p>	<p>Although the environmental conditions are totally different to the pre-flood world, God still wants us to 'be fruitful and multiply'. Mankind can now eat meat. Rainbow - no more a worldwide flood, even though every inclination of the heart of man is evil from childhood.</p> <p><b>Jesus: When we trust in Jesus and are saved, we are no longer part of this world system, but belong to Christ's Kingdom (Colossians 1:13); We are still to produce children in the context of marriage! (Matthew 19:1-15); Jesus pronounced all things "clean" for us to eat (Matthew 15:10-20); He gave us communion, as our constant sign that He loves us and has died for our sin and that in Him we are safe (Matthew 26:17-30; 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26)</b></p>
<p>Noah: curses &amp; blessings to his children (Gen 9:18-29)</p>	<p>The power of our tongues to bless and to curse, to build up and to destroy.</p> <p>These curses and blessings shaped world history: the Canaanites did become the slaves of the the Semites and Japhethites; the Semites (the decendants of Abraham), did conquer the Canaanites and occupy what is now the land of Israel; the Japhethites (who lived around the Mediterranean), did take over the land of Israel (The Greeks under Alexander the Great, and then the Romans).</p> <p><b>Jesus: Let your words be truth (Matthew 5:33-37), full of grace and seasoned with salt (Colossians 4:6); Jesus does not want us to curse people (Matthew 5:21-26); Have a positive confession (James 1:5-8)</b></p>
<p>Nations &amp; the spread of people (Gen 10,11)</p>	<p>All nations and races on earth come from Noah. The origin of the different language groups at Babel. God opposes our proud independent schemes! People in a group can do many awesome things, but a) is it what God wants done? b) for whose glory? God sees everything. We must trust and obey God, and find our security and unity in Him alone. History tells us that at the time of Nimrod and Babylon, idolatry, astrology and witchcraft really got a foothold. (Origin of idol worship and "The Queen of Heaven with her child" with Nimrod and his wife.)</p> <p><b>Jesus: All of us who believe in Jesus are part of the same spiritual family, no matter where we are on earth! (Ephesians 2:11-22); Jesus reminds us and empowers us to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength" (Matthew 22:34-40); Jesus wants us to work together as a BODY, and so accomplish great things for HIM! (1 Corinthians 12; Acts 2:42-47)</b></p>
<p>Abraham (Gen 12:1-9)</p>	<p>God wants to bless and heal the world by making a blessed people united in Him. God chooses a person who has FAITH = BELIEVE what God says. Faith is the key to blessing. The first test of faith: LEAVE your home country = LEAVE your old pagan influences behind &amp; FOLLOW God's leading. God promises Abram land.</p> <p><b>Jesus: He said we also must leave our old lives and attachments behind, and then we are fit to be His disciples! (Luke 9:23-27, 57-62). The meek (NOT weak!) will inherit the earth (Matthew 5:5)</b></p>
<p>Messianic prophecy - the fulfillment of the promise to Abraham (Isaiah 61)</p>	<p>The description of what a blessed and healed world looks like. God will send someone to implement this. A job description for God's servant.</p> <p><b>Jesus: He is this person! (see next lesson!) Jesus is progressively fulfilling this prophecy in this age (now, plus in the Millenium) (Mark 10:23-31; Revelation 20:1-6).</b></p>
<p>The coming of the Messiah - the fulfillment of Isaiah 61 (Luke 4)</p>	<p><b>Jesus Christ, who resisted all the devil's temptations, is God's servant to bless and heal the world, to bless and heal YOU and ME!</b></p>

## d) An overview of the Six Steps to abundant life

Here you can give the growing disciple an overview of what the Christian life looks like. It is in the form of a jigsaw puzzle!



First of all (& obviously) we have to be born into this world.

We are then a part of a family, and we learn from them how to live with others, whether the example is a good one or a bad one.

In the context of our family our identities are fashioned. We begin to learn consciously and subconsciously who we are as male or female, who we are as a "Kutschker" (in my case), or a "Smith", or whatever our surname is, and we learn how valued we are as individuals, and what we are valued for.

From within the context of our families we also start to learn how to relate to the wider world out there in our daily living; all the different people, different values, ideas, and so on. We begin to realize that the world is much bigger than just our own family.

In our youth, and especially through the education process, we also start to realize what our talents are, what we are good at, and therefore what type of job we might actually end up doing.

Then, through using the talents we have, we come into leadership. We become skilled, others learn from our example, and we also teach others many things. Even being a parent is being a leader, because you are responsible for bringing up children, leading them into how they should be living their lives in the world.

Now whilst the above provides an overview of life, I have found that it also helps us to categorize all the problems we see in our world today:

Although we are physically alive, for many people there still seems to be something missing inside of them - they can't seem to find happiness, peace, or joy; it's as if there is a hole in their hearts; people can be at a party and still be lonely.

Family life is becoming less and less stable. There are so many divorces, broken homes, and children born out of wedlock. Home is often a hell for many. Family bonds have been eroded, and our peer groups often become more important than our homes and families. Elderly citizens are left alone in their own flats, or shunted away to retirement villages and isolated from their families.

Many people have a low self-esteem due to real or perceived experiences of rejection. So, we often do anything to try and feel good about ourselves and find acceptance and security. For some, they try cigarettes; others try alcohol, or gambling. Some become sports fanatics. Others try to find their identity in their car, work, fashion, drugs, or sex, etc. And this is often done in the context of a group of peers who are struggling with the same problems of rejection.

The world in which we live is being polluted & trashed. People are being abused instead of respected. There are wars, crimes, rapes, pornography, fights, religious arguments, anarchy, refugees, dog-eat-dog in the business world, etc. People rip each other off, and couldn't care less about anyone else.

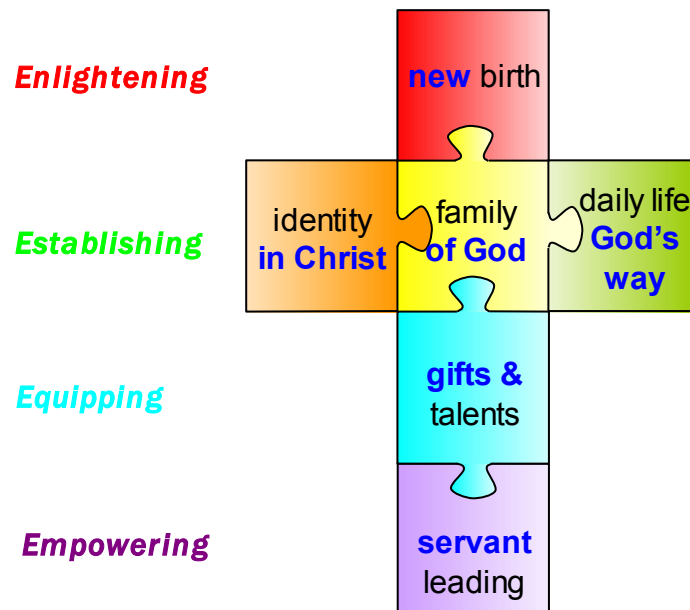
People's abilities to express their talents are stifled, or they have never been given an opportunity to flourish, especially if their family is poor or is very dysfunctional. And when talents are expressed, it is often for selfish ends.

We see dictatorship and oppressive leadership. We see power politics, and people still treated like slaves or pawns in a game of chess. We see leaders who don't really know what they are doing.

This being said, is there any hope? Is there a solution?

In all of my thinking, study, reading, research, & talking with people, I am convinced that although we are born physically, the solution lies in also being born spiritually. We need enlightenment. As Jesus said: "**You must be born again**" in order to experience life as God always intended it.

When you open up your life to Jesus Christ and become spiritually born, and then allow the spiritual to affect every realm of your existence, life becomes fulfilling, meaningful, and alive!



When the Spirit of God comes to live within you, no longer is there an inner emptiness, but rather a wholeness, peace, and joy beyond understanding.

Your identity is no longer defined by the trashy experiences you have been through in life, but rather by who you are in Christ: you realize that you truly are significant from God's perspective, highly valued, of great worth, and very special in His eyes! You no longer have to prove yourself to anyone!

Whereas your "human family" may be beyond "repair", you are now embraced to be a part of God's family: He becomes your Father, Jesus is not ashamed to call you His brother / sister, and every other believer is now your spiritual "sibling". You are never alone, because God is now with you in a very real way, and He always cares for you!

In your daily life you understand that the spiritual reality is the fundamental reality, much greater than the physical universe. You begin to see the earth as a place to be respected, not raped & trashed. You begin to treat other people with dignity & kindness, showing mercy and exercising forgiveness. Your work becomes something you do for the glory of God and blessing of other people, not a purely selfish and greedy enterprise. You begin to honour those in authority over you, from parents to governments. And beyond religion, you are able to see evidence of the

grace of God at work in other people's lives, even if they are not yet following Jesus.

When the Spirit of God comes into you, not only does He equip you with spiritual gifts & talents to bless other people, but often unlocked potential within you is released, just like Spring causes flowers in bud to bloom.

And leadership becomes seen as a responsibility to serve others to bring out their best.

Does this sound good to you? Well it sounds good to me! And I am experiencing it. You can, too. But to experience it, as I said before, you need to become born again.

e) Teaching concerning what it really means to be a Christian. This involves studying the Gospel of Mark in the Bible. In modern terms, you could say it is like reading the “Christian Life Charter”.

Each week, have a personal Bible study with the believer, in which you go through one chapter of the Gospel of Mark at a time (16 chapters in total). The following method is suggested:

- Make sure that you have read the chapter first yourself at home, asking the Lord to reveal to you what you should communicate to the new growing disciple.
- When you come together for the Bible study, pray together, asking the Lord to bless you as you read and study His Word, and ask Him to give you understanding so that you might learn what He wants you to learn in this study.
- Read the chapter allocated, out loud, either with one person reading the whole lot, or alternating sections.
- Ask them what struck them, what they thought was really interesting.
- Ask them what they didn't understand.
- Now, guide them through the thoughts which you understand to be the major important ideas and concepts.
- Then close with prayer.

## f) Baptising new believers, and receiving the Holy Spirit.

If they still desire to be a follower of Jesus Christ and be a committed Christian, prepare them for baptism by studying Hebrews 6:1,2 and Romans 6:1-11 with them. Then baptize them by full immersion at a suitable place which has enough water!

### **Getting baptized**

- it is a physical event with a spiritual effect, confirming your faith in Jesus.
- it is a washing away of sins, a burial of your old way of living, and a rising to new life. Immerse them in water, with the words "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, I baptize you into the name of the Lord Jesus, into His death, burial, and resurrection."

### **Receiving the Holy Spirit**

- this is a promised gift from God, sealing & completing your new birth. He will give the Holy Spirit in His time - just wait!
- you will know when a person receives: they will come forth with spontaneous spiritual speech, praising & glorifying God from deep joy, either in their own language or other tongues. Such speech includes the cries 'Jesus is Lord!' or 'Father!' Don't be surprised if others think they are drunk!
- as a Spirit filled believer, lay hands on the baptized person and pray that God will pour out His Spirit into them (if they are not filled already by this stage!).

**PRAISE GOD!** They are now born again!

For more help, please contact:

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