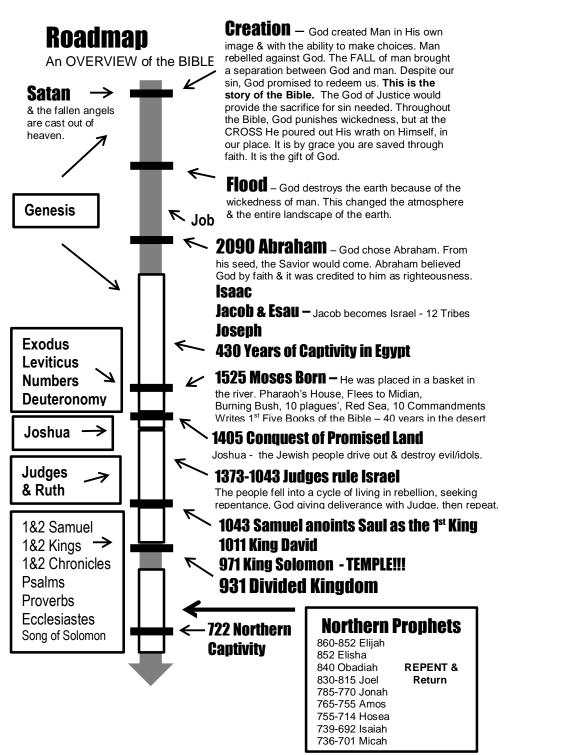
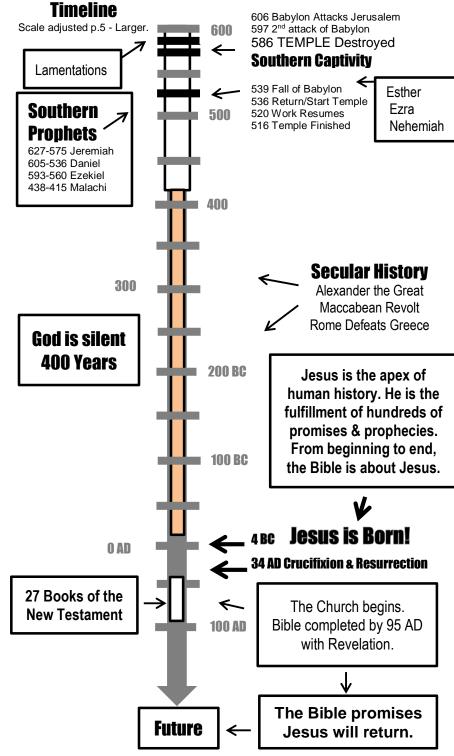
Next Steps



Disciples make Disciples





Are you a DISCIPLE MAKER?

You have been given a great privilege to invest your life into someone else. Wherever someone is in their spiritual journey, begin



there and disciple them. Your goal is to get the thinker to believe and the believer to think. Use the Scripture and the principles you learned in First Steps. The following thoughts are intended to help guide you in the process of discipleship.

A SEEKER!

Do you remember your doubts and unbelief? Who helped you wrestle with those issues and point you to the Truth? Approach a seeker with the same understanding and grace. Identify with where they are in their journey of faith and ask the Holy Spirit to help you be an ambassador of reconciliation to them.

During the Journey of Discovery, read John in your daily quiet time. Ask the same questions and write down your answers. When you get together, keep the focus on the text. What do the Scriptures say? They may ask a lot of unrelated questions, and while you cannot ignore or avoid questions that distract from the Gospel of John, keep the focus on the text. Remind them that their quest for Truth is to discover what the Bible says about Jesus. History and hypocrites are valid discussions, but not the purpose of this study. This may be their way of rebelling against a belief system that establishes itself as absolute Truth. Anticipate push back, but do not argue. Use the discovery question to help seekers process what the text is saying.

Use the principles of hermeneutics you learned in First Steps to ask more questions. Help them see the context and interpret the meaning by asking more good questions. Let them ask questions. If you face questions that you cannot answer, it is okay to use a "life line." Ask a discipleship partner, small group leader, or a pastor in the church. You are not in this alone. Let the seeker know that was a good question and that you would like to think about the answer.

Apologetics

The process of removing intellectual impediments is called apologetics. Watch the videos at www.truelife.org and learn to defend the faith. Break down false arguments and false logic. Challenge people to think critically.

Ask the seeker to watch the videos, or share one at your meetings. These can help bridge the gaps. Here some other great resources online.

www.gotquestions.org www.apologetics.org www.apologetics315.org www.rzim.org

More resources

Each of the following use apologetics or emphasize disciple making. These are great resources. They will challenge you, develop your knowledge base, and help you practice a growing and vibrant faith.

The Case for Christ & The Case for a Creator by Lee Strobel Radical & Follow Me by David Platt
Crazy Love by Francis Chan
Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life by Don Whitney
Experiencing God by Henry Blackaby & Claude King
Mere Christianity by CS Lewis

Salvation

Salvation is more than saying a prayer. It is complete surrender through repentance and faith. In the end, the seeker will have to be drawn by the Father, and be convicted by the Holy Spirit in order to come to faith in Jesus Christ. Pray for them and listen carefully for insight into how they think and the obstacles they face. When they are ready, it will be evident. You cannot force Jesus on anyone. If some still has doubts after the Journey of Discovery, ask if they would like to begin First Steps to see the expectations of following Jesus. If they say no, then be an example. Be a friend. Be a witness as God gives the opportunity in your relationship. Allow God to open the door, but do not use pressure tactics. Let God work!

First steps

First Steps was designed to teach a process of relational discipleship. It is not an exhaustive study, rather an introduction to our relationship to Christ and to the body of Christ, His Church. You don't have to know all the answers. Just seek to find the answers with them. By the end of this study, you will have taught them how to be lifelong learners.

The introduction meeting is so important. To be a disciple, one must know how they became a disciple. They must know what it means to be a disciple. Use Scripture to clarify the theology of faith and the practice of believers. Here are some great passages.

Ephesians 2:1-10 Philippians 3:7-11 1 Peter 2:9-12 2 Corinthians 5:21 Romans 3:21-24 Colossians 1:21-22 Luke 9:23-25 John 3:4, 16-18 Titus 3:3-7

Fellowship and Follow UP — (10-15 minutes)

Take time to really get to know your discipleship partner. Share your life with them. Be honest and vulnerable. Help them walk through the issues they face. Hold them accountable for life change. What they reveal in the first few minutes may take priority, so listen carefully. This is not a sprint, but a marathon. If you do know the answer to a question, it is okay to call them back later.

Devotional Reading (10-15 minutes)

It is important to take time to read the Scriptures with your partner and share from your experiences. Use the discipleship questions to help them see the "Big Picture". Help them discover what is in the text. What must they KNOW, BE, and DO?

Lessons (20-30 minutes)

Use the questions as a guide and let the Scriptures speak. Drill down a little deeper with more questions. Discipleship is process is more than just acquiring information. Share with your partner how the Scriptures are speaking into your life and transforming you. Feel free to read some of the **Verses to Ponder** together during your discipleship time. Draw out the meaning of the text and apply the truth with specific action steps. This approach can be used with any book of the Bible. This is reproducible!

Prayer Time - (10-15 minutes)

From the beginning, model conversational prayer with your discipleship partner. Encourage them to pray out loud with you, even if it is only a few sentences. Show them your need for prayer and express your real needs. Show them how to pray for others and how to pray the Scriptures. Follow up on prayer requests each week. Keep track of who you are praying for salvation and mention them often.

Relational Discipleship

Disciples are not built in a day. Therefore, throughout this process, encourage the disciple to share their faith, to connect to a small group, and submit to a church family. Exhort them to love and serve others and to discover their spiritual gifts. Help them see the goal of life is to honor and glorify God, and live as obedient children. Most importantly, make sure they enjoy Him! A lack of joy and thanksgiving reveals a heart issue that needs to be explored. Our hope is to be firmly set on Jesus and His soon return.

The Roadmap

Use the Roadmap to give a seeker or new believer an overview of the Bible at your introductory meeting. Help them see in 10 minutes or less the theme and unity of the Bible. Begin by making bullet points of key historical events and figures. Show how they all relate. Each time you tell share the Roadmap, it may be a little different, because you emphasize a different point. In time you will learn more apologetics and a better summary. Let the Holy Spirit guide you.

Use the following written explanation, as a guide to telling the Roadmap of the Bible

The Roadmap of the Bible

The Bible is the story of man, but it is ALL about God. It is God who supernaturally spoke everything into existence out of nothing. It is God who is the Author and Sustainer of life by His divine power. It is through God, we live and move and have our being.

When God formed our universe, God created man different than every other living thing. He uniquely created man in His own image, to mirror His attributes. 1) He gave us a **spiritual** capacity, which means we can know God and be known by Him in ways that plants and animals do not. 2) He gave us a **moral** capacity to choose the good over the bad, rather than just living by instinct. 3) He gave us a **rational** capacity to logically think through details and solve problems. 4) He gave us a **creative** capacity to use our imagination, to dream, and to live in awe of His wonders. 5) He also gave us a **relational** capacity to communicate and relate with Him, with other people, and with the created order. We were created to be at peace within ourselves, because we were right with God. This is why the Bible says it was good!

If the complexity of the universe was the result of a Big Bang with billions of years of random processes, where did matter and energy originate? How did order evolve from disorder, when the laws of nature teach the opposite is true? How did such complex atmospheric, ecological and biological systems develop, all at the same time to allow life to exist? Why do we exist? Why are we different than every other living being? Only the Bible answers these questions with scientifically verifiable facts. Our universe clearly displays the evidence of a Creator, beginning with the genetic code in our DNA.

Therefore, if everything in the universe was made by God and belongs to God, are we not His as well? Has this Creator revealed Himself to us? If so, are we not accountable to Him? What is the purpose of our lives? What does the future hold? These answers are all found in the Bible.

The Bible can be broken down into 4 main plot movements:

- 1) **The Creation**: God reveals Himself as the Author of the universe. We live in perfect unity.
- Our Fall: Man sins against God. The curse of sin is suffering and death. Our unique capacities are corrupted by sin.
- 3) **His Redemption**: The history of the Bible reveals God's plan to atone for sin through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We are reconciled to God through Jesus. The History of man reveals this plan.
- 4) His Promised Return: Jesus will reward those whom He has made righteous and punish the rebellious. The curse of sin will be over and we will reign with Jesus Christ in a new heaven and new earth.

Of course, there are a lot of details in between, but these provide the framework to understand the redemptive work of God. In each, Jesus is the central character.

In creation, everything was by Him, through Him, and for Him. Jesus was the promised Messiah for whom people longed to see for centuries. Jesus became flesh and dwelt among us. Jesus died on the cross in our place as a sacrifice for our sin. Jesus arose from the dead. Jesus promised to return. The story of the Bible is about Jesus!

The Bible is comprised of 66 books and is divided into the 39 books of the Old Testament and the 27 books of the New Testament. It was written by about 40 different authors under the inspiration of God and its history has been authenticated by archeology and secular historians over and over again. The Bible has been the most scrutinized compilation of writings in the history of man and its accuracy and authenticity are well documented.

In Genesis, it was God who gave us the ability to make choices with our lives, based on our unique capacities. For there to be true choice, God had to allow the natural consequences of our choices to unfold. The Bible says that man chose to sin and rebel against God's authority. Therefore, sin tainted our unique capacities to relate to God and to the created order. We now live under the penalty or curse of sin, which is death. We continue to see the effects of sin, because God continues to allow us to make choices and to live independent of Him. For God to put an end to the consequences of sin, He must put an end to our ability to be sinful. This means what you value most, your freedom to make choices and chose your own way, must also be eliminated. In the end, that is the promise of God.

Because of the nature and character of God, He has taken sin very seriously throughout history. He is a righteous judge who has punished wickedness in various ways at various times. He caused a great flood to envelope the earth during the days of Noah. God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah with fire during the time of Abraham. Yet, God has continually shown grace and mercy to those who believe Him by faith, who love Him by obeying His commands, and who submit to His authority.

The Old Testament reveals that God is a covenant keeping God. He keeps His promises. God chose Abraham as the seed from which the Messiah would come. God made a covenant with Abraham and promised a special land in which his descendants would inhabit. In fact, most of the Old Testament tells the story of the children of Israel and their relationship to God. Have you heard the stories of Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph? These men lived by faith! They believed God and despite their flaws, God fulfilled His promises through them.

By the providence of God, the children of Israel went to Egypt to escape famine. Eventually, they were enslaved. It was Moses, whom God called and equipped to lead them out of Egypt. Through the burning bush God revealed Himself and His plan to deliver His people. God displayed His power with amazing signs and wonders. He caused 10 plagues to fall upon the Egyptians, and Moses led them through the Red Sea. In the final plague, all those who had the blood of a lamb on their door did not lose their firstborn son. This is why the Jewish people celebrate the Passover. It also points to the blood of Jesus shed on the cross for our redemption.

Through the Exodus, God renews His covenant to the children of Israel and He gives them His Laws, so that they know how to follow Him based His holiness. His first commands are to love Him and not worship any other gods or idols. He institutes a sacrificial system. Every aspect of the tabernacle worship pointed to Jesus as the atoning sacrifice of sin. This begins a process where they come to know God by experience. Despite His presence and provision, the people often grumbled and complained to God and rebellion and unbelief were a continual pattern.

Therefore, they wondered in the desert for 40 years. God led them to take possession of the Promised Land through Joshua, and He again displayed His mighty power. The inhabitants of the land were extremely wicked. Because they were so perverse, and followed false gods, God uses the nation of Israel to be the tool of His judgment.

Remember, God takes sin seriously. The Israelites did not fully obey God or complete the task He gave them. They intermarried into these cultures and were led astray to follow their false gods. They did what was right in their own eyes, which led to suffering. When the people repented of their sins and turned to God, God would send a judge to deliver them. Then, after a time of peace, the people would sin again and turn against God. This cycle continued for over 300 years.

Eventually, the Israelites asked God for a King to lead their nation. God sends Samuel to anoint Saul. The next King was David, with whom God again makes a covenant. The Messiah is from the line and lineage of David. His son, Solomon built the temple. From David and Solomon come most of the poetic writings of the Bible where the wisdom of God revealed and the worship of God is expressed.

From these foundations, most of the kings of Israel do not follow after God. God sends prophets to remind them of His holiness and calls them to repent of their sins. The prophets foretell the details of Messiah and share glimpses of the final judgment of God. They also predict the Kingdom to split, to be conquered, and the Jewish people to be captured and sent into exile. All these occur. The Northern Kingdom fell to the Assyrians around 722 BC. The Southern Kingdom is conquered by the Babylonians around 586 BC. God discipline is to teach them about Himself and their need of a Savior.

Through Ezra and Nehemiah the walls of Jerusalem are rebuilt and the temple and the sacrificial system are restored. When the New Testament begins, God has been silent for 400 years. The children of Israel had learned valuable lessons about the seriousness of sin, but most had turned faith into a legalistic system of works. The Pharisees were the religious rulers who used the Levitical Law as a means to gain righteousness. When Jesus takes on flesh and dwelt among us, He condemns religious people who were self-righteous. We are justified by faith.

The first 4 books of the New Testament are called the Gospels. They tell the story of Jesus from different perspectives. His life, teaching and ministry are documented, as well as His death, burial, and resurrection. Jesus is the apex of human history and His Disciples begin to share Him with the world, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Acts tells the story of the early church and how the Gospel message spread. The rest of the New Testament is composed of letters written by Apostles and those around them to the churches that were multiplying disciples of Jesus. Most of the letters were incidental, rebuking False Teaching and detailing doctrinal Truth. When John wrote the book of Revelations, detailing end times, the canon of Scripture was complete. The early Church only accepted the authentic works and rejected the letters they considered fake. The copies of these manuscripts were widely distributed and the availability of so many of them, prove that the story of the New Testament has not been changed or altered over time. It would be impossible to destroy and replace all those copies.

God has revealed Himself through the Scriptures and the Scriptures reveal the rebellious nature of man. What is so amazing is the fact that God would love us and pursue us after thousands of years of rebellion.

In the New Testament, we discover God foreknew that we would rebel against Him from the beginning. He is not only omnipotent, but omniscient. Therefore, when He created the world, out of His great love for us, He also set in motion a plan to redeem the world from penalty of sin. He promised a Messiah. This Messiah was Jesus! He was foretold by prophets throughout history and people longed for His appearing.

Therefore, God has orchestrated the events of time to provide a Savior, while allowing the choices of man and their consequences to be realized. Throughout the Bible, God reveals His nature and character. We see His attributes clearly defined and our path to salvation is clear. We are saved by grace, through faith. It is the gift of God. He was the propitiation of our sin, which means He poured out His own wrath on Himself on the cross. He bore the curse of sin, in our place.

This is the story the church has been sharing for 2,000 years. God has made His appeal through us. God is loving and merciful, but He is a just God. Sin must be punished. Jesus took our punishment in our place. God demonstrated His love for us in this, that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

The End!

This story can be told a thousand different ways and still have the same purpose and theme. Highlight the stories you know. Inter-mingle apologetics based on the person with whom you are sharing the roadmap.

NEXT STEPS

Introduction

You know it. I know it. We all know it. We are all called to be disciple makers. We have tried to ignore it and rationalize it away, but deep inside we know it is true. In our homes and workplaces, in our lives and relationships, we are to be a reflection of the love and grace of God. In



fact, the very reason we are chosen by God, redeemed, and born into His family is to build His Kingdom. God loves this world and He has given His children the task to be His ambassadors and His

ministers of reconciliation. We are to invest our lives into sharing the abundant life Christ offers through a relationship with Jesus. Our life has a purpose and focus.

Our Mission is to GROW devoted followers of Jesus, who KNOW Him personally, SHOW His love relationally, and GO with Him faithfully into our world.

What is your mission statement? In First Steps, you were taught how to live as a disciple of Jesus. We modeled for you how to make disciples in a relationship with a disciple partner. We laid a biblical foundation, with Jesus as the Cornerstone. Now, build upon what you have learned, and invest yourself in others. You know the process! We understand you still have questions and may not feel ready, but this hesitation is not from the Lord. You must live by faith.

The purpose of **NEXT STEPS**, is to EQUIP and RESOURCE you to continue the journey. It is a companion tool to First Steps and what you learn here will help you model the basic principles of discipleship for others. NEXT STEPS will take you deeper into the Word of God and your understanding of God. You will move past the milk to solid food. The process of making disciples is the very step you must take to become more mature. Every good thing we have in Christ is experienced and understood by living out and sharing our faith in Christ. We find fulfillment in being who He called us to be.

An Overview

NEXT STEPS has been divided into 9 lessons and it follows the format of First Steps. Meet weekly with a discipleship partner or a group of 2-3

- Fellowship & Follow-up (15-20 minutes)
 - 1. Share about life and family.
 - 2. Celebrate & Encourage
 - 3. Coach one another
 - As First Steps partners
 - o Roadmap
 - 4. Accountability
 - Action Steps
 - Family Discipleship
 - Accountability Questions
 - Sharing & Showing Jesus
- Discuss Devotional Reading: (20-30 minutes)
 - 1. Romans
 - 2. 1 Corinthians
- Lesson: Discuss what you have learned in your independent study. . (30-40 minutes)
 - 1. Apologetics
 - 2. Bible Doctrines
- Prayer. (10-15 minutes)

Commitments & components

- Quiet Time: You will read Romans & 1 Corinthians over the next 9 weeks. Read 1 chapter a day, at least 3 days a week. Use the Basic Discipleship Questions. Journal what you discover. Write down your questions. Discuss weekly with your discipleship partner.
- Apologetics: You will be exposed to 1 apologetic website each week. Watch 1 video, read 1 article, or listen to 1 sermon. Journal what you learn. Discuss with your discipleship partner. Use the following sites or find new ones.
 - www.truelife.org
 - o <u>www.apologetics.org</u>
 - o www.apologetics.com
 - o <u>www.rzim.org</u>
 - o www.apologetics315.org
 - o www.bbnradio.org
- Bible Doctrines: You will study 1 Bible Doctrine each week. Use www.bbnradio.org as your resource. Click the Resources tab at the top of the page and select the Bible Doctrines link.
 - Theology- The Doctrine of God
 - Christology The Doctrine of Christ
 - Pneumatology The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit
 - Anthropology The Doctrine of Man
 - Harmartiology The Doctrine of Sin
 - Soteriology The Doctrine of Salvation
 - Ecclesiology The Doctrine of the Church
 - Eschatology The Doctrine of Last Things
- Discipleship: You are responsible to meet with your discipleship partner or small group each week

for at least 90 minutes to discuss what God is teaching you. It may take 2-3 hours!

• Accountability:

Will you covenant with another person to complete Next Steps? Follow the principles you have learned. Challenge and encourage one another. Sign below if you are ready to make this commitment.

Disciple			
Disciple			

Church Covenant

We are members of God's covenant family and as His worshippers we commit ourselves to Him and to one another, for His glory. Our desire is to be transformed by a personal relationship with Christ, bearing the fruit of the Spirit in our lives and relationships.

We will serve and exhort one another in biblical community, as the body of Christ, and bear witness of God's grace. With the enabling of the Holy Spirit, we will live out the mission, vision, and values of our church, with Scripture as our foundation for belief and practice. We will aspire to live a life worthy of the calling we have received, and to be faithful and generous stewards of God's resources.

We will protect the unity of our church by submitting to Christ as the head of the Church, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ, and earnestly pray for our Fellowship and its leadership, so that God's plan for us prevails above our own.

BASIC Accountability Questions

- 1. Have you completed our Scripture reading this week? What must you KNOW, BE, & DO?
- 2. How have you grown closer to the Lord this week? Are you letting the Word of God and the Holy Spirit guide your life, mind, and decisions?
- 3. Have you been consistent in your family devotions? What questions or obstacles do you face?
- 4. Have you reflected love in all your relationships this week? Have you been a testimony to the greatness of God this week? What opportunities did you miss?
- 5. Do you have any unresolved issues in your life such as anger, personal conflicts, or addictions that need to be addressed?
- 6. Is your conscience clear in matters of integrity and your personal character? Do you have any un-confessed sin in your life?
- 7. Does your daily routine or priorities reflect what is really important in your life? Is what you are living for worth what Jesus died for?
- 8. Who are you praying for to be saved? How are you sharing with them?
- 9. How are you teaching others what you are learning?

BASIC Discipleship Questions

- 1. What am I to KNOW about God? (Father, Son, & Spirit)
- 2. What is the context and the meaning of the keywords?
- 3. What does this passage teach? Who am I to BE?
- 4. How does this passage model discipleship?
- 5. How can I apply these truths to my life?
- 6. What must I DO to live in obedience?
- 7. How can I SHARE what I have learned?

Family Discipleship Plan

- **Family Bible Reading Schedule** Use the basic discipleship questions you have shared with your partner. Create your own. Get your family thinking and talking.
- **Weekly Bible Verse Memorization** Hide God's Word in your heart. Motivate your family to do the same.
- **Family Prayer Time** Identify people who need Jesus, and include your children's friends. Help them see they are missionaries. Share needs, hurts, concerns, but keep the focus on God. Let your children hear you pray. Let them pray. Pray the Scriptures for them & with them.
- Spiritual Goals- In what areas does your family struggle?
 What does your family need to study or learn? It can be a doctrine or a character trait. Evaluate your progress monthly. Create action steps to meet goals.
- **Missions & Service** Choose a project to do as a family. Teach your family how to be fishers of men & serve!
- **Giving** Challenge each family member to give to the needs of others, to mission projects and to church.
- **Family Fun** Spend a night or day with JUST your family. Get creative. Build memories. Enjoy the journey. Play!
- **Date Night** Don't forget the romance. Keep your spouse a priority. You are teaching your kids how to love.

Week 1 Journal

Bible Doctrine Notes:

Romans 1

Romans 2

Romans 3

Discipleship Notes/Meeting Time

Week 2 Journal

Bible Doctrine Notes:

Romans 4

Romans 5

Romans 6

Discipleship Notes/Meeting Time

Week 3 Journal

Bible Doctrine Notes:

Romans 7

Romans 8

Romans 9

Discipleship Notes/Meeting Time

Week 4 Journal

Bible Doctrine Notes:

Romans 10

Romans 11

Romans 12

Discipleship Notes/Meeting Time

Week 5 Journal

Bible Doctrine Notes:

Romans 13

Romans 14

Romans 15

Romans 16

Discipleship Notes/Meeting Time

Week 6 Journal

Bible Doctrine Notes:

1 Corinthians 1

1 Corinthians 2

1 Corinthians 3

1 Corinthians 4

Discipleship Notes/Meeting Time

Week 7 Journal

Bible Doctrine Notes:

1 Corinthians 5

1 Corinthians 6

1 Corinthians 7

1 Corinthians 8

Discipleship Notes/Meeting Time

Week 8 Journal

Bible Doctrine Notes:

1 Corinthians 9

1 Corinthians 10

1 Corinthians 11

1 Corinthians 12

Discipleship Notes/Meeting Time

Week 9 Journal

Bible Doctrine Notes:

1 Corinthians 13

1 Corinthians 14

1 Corinthians 15

1 Corinthians 16

Discipleship Notes/Meeting Time