



Foundations Leader's Guide

Lesson I – Introduction to Foundations

Objectives

- Get to know group members
- Understand the purpose and mission of Standing in the Gap and the larger Church
- Introduce and discuss importance of the 6 foundational teachings from *Hebrews 6:1-3*

Preparation

- Establish a meeting place and time
- Pray for the members of your group, that throughout the semester they would “be filled with a knowledge of God’s will so they may live a life worthy of the Lord” (*Colossians 1:9-12*)
- Print a notes sheet for each student
- If you are co-leading, determine who will lead which parts of the meeting

Meeting Notes

1. Welcome Jesus

Matthew 18.20: “For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them.”

- ✓ Lead the group in prayer by welcoming Jesus as Lord, and asking him to teach and transform each member of the group.

2. Welcome Each Other

- ✓ Beginning with yourself, ask everyone in the group introduce themselves by saying their name, hometown, class standing, major, and something interesting about themselves.
- ? What has been your experience with faith? What are some high points and low points?
- ? Why did you join this Foundations group, and what do you hope to learn throughout the semester?

3. Receive From the Lord

3.1 Standing in the Gap’s Mission

Standing in the Gap’s name comes from *Ezekiel 22:30*.

📖 *Ezekiel 22.30*

- ? What do you think it means to “stand in the gap”?

The purpose of Standing in the Gap is **to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ**. This comes from Jesus’ “Great Commission” to his disciples at the very end of the Gospel of Matthew.

📖 *Matthew 28.18-20*

- ? What does Jesus emphasize in this commission? Have you seen those teachings emphasized in Christian practice?

The word **disciple** means “disciplined follower.”

The original New Testament, written in Greek, uses the word “mathetes,” from which we get our English word “mathematics.” A mathetes is a lifelong learner, completely committed to putting into practice what they have learned.

Scripture tells us that the goal of every disciple is **to be like Jesus**.

📖 *Luke 6.40*

- ? What are some ways you think we can be more “fully trained” in our discipleship?

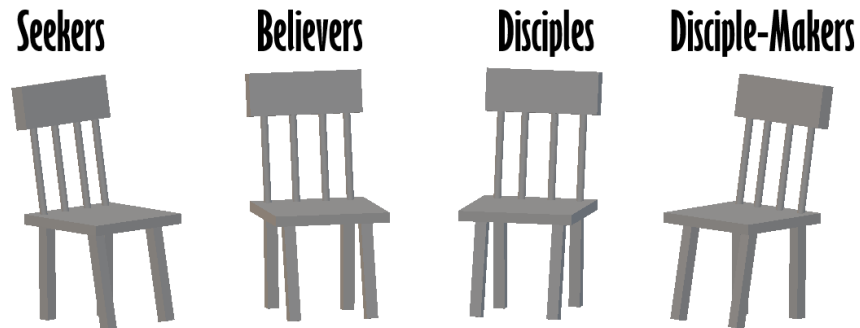
Jesus told his disciples that **anyone who has faith in him** would be doing the things he did, and even greater things!

📖 *John 14.12*

- ? What do you think Jesus means by “greater things”? Do you think his present-day disciples are living up to this standard?
- ? How does this verse challenge your understanding of the word “faith”?

This is the type of disciple we hope to become at Standing in the Gap: one who is like Jesus in thought, word, and deed.

Our model for understanding spiritual growth comes from Dr. Dann Spader's *4 Chair Discipleship* and consists of four "chairs" or stages of spiritual development through which every Christian can grow:



Seekers are those who are looking for spiritual answers. They may or may not believe in God, and may or may not call themselves Christians, but ultimately do not yet have a life-shaping trust in God through Jesus Christ. Seekers often need the guidance of other Christians to discover the truth about Jesus.

Believers are those who have made a commitment to follow and trust in Jesus. They are often still learning how to honor God in all areas of their life, and often need the guidance of mature Christian examples to find ways to grow and serve.

Disciples are those who are intentionally helping others to know Jesus more fully. They find ways to point others toward Christ and seek to honor God consistently. They need Christian community but are able to find ways to feed themselves spiritually.

Disciple-Makers are those disciples who are helping others become disciples. A key characteristic of disciple-makers is the responsibility they take for the spiritual well-being of others around them.

Standing in the Gap exists to help every Christian move to the disciple-maker chair!

- ? How does your experience so far in Standing in the Gap compare with your experience in other churches or ministries? What is comfortable or uncomfortable about it?

3.2 Introduction to Foundations

Our Foundations small group is based on the verses in *Hebrews 6.1-3*.

📖 *Hebrews 6.1-3*

According to this passage, we must have an understanding of these six teachings, as well as God's permission, to go on to maturity.

- ? What do you think it means to be spiritually mature? Is it important? Why or why not?
- ? How familiar are you with these six teachings? Is there anything that surprises you?

4. Offer Response to the Lord

- ✓ Lead the group in prayer by thanking the Lord for his presence, and asking him to continue to teach and transform the group through the power of the Holy Spirit.