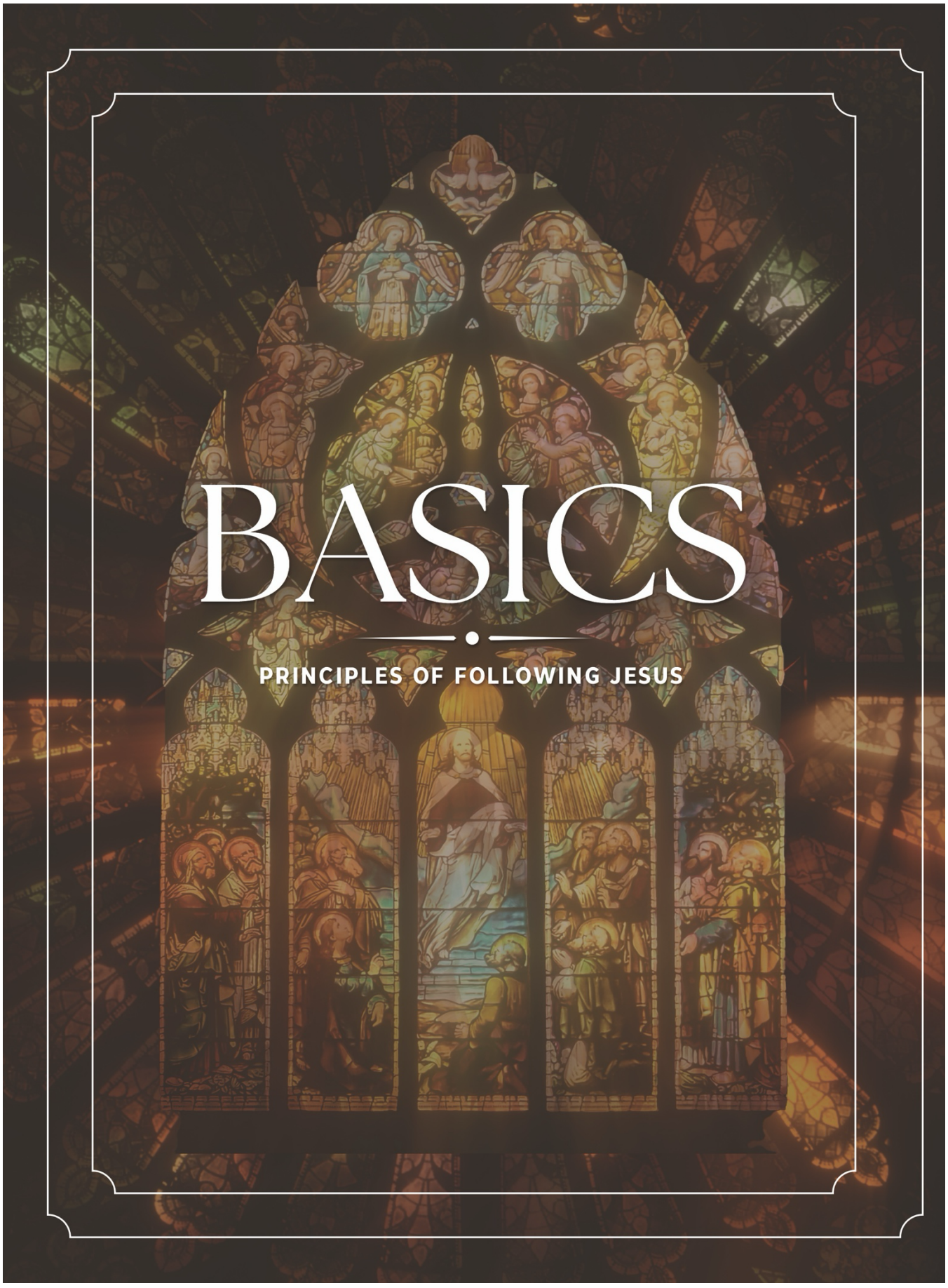

BASICS
PRINCIPLES OF FOLLOWING JESUS



CLASSROOM SETUP

You will need access to the session videos and a TV with the proper connections.

The best set-up for this class, if space allows, will be four or five tables (depending on the size of the class) with 6-8 people at each table.

If space does not allow for tables, you will need to form huddles for discussion following the video.

SUPPLIES

- TV & Adapters
- *Gospel Threads* handouts
- *Your Salvation Testimony* Worksheets
- Blank paper
- Pens

BEGINNING THE SESSION

Get to know each other. Take time to introduce yourself and invite everyone in the room to do the same. Because this class is very discussion-oriented, it is important to build relationships where people feel comfortable sharing their thoughts freely.

Introduce the series. Our goal in these 8 weeks will be to discover and discuss some biblical principles for following Jesus.

- In **session 1**, we will consider the Gospel and its impact on our lives.
- In **session 2**, we will look at the Great Commandment.
- In **session 3**, the Great Commission.
- In **session 4**, we will consider what it means to "assume yes."
- In **session 5**, we will talk about how we believe deep roots bear fruit.
- In **session 6**, we will talk about what it means to be a "growing disciple."

- In **session 7**, we will talk about leveraging our lives "for the sake of the nations."
- And then in **session 8**, we will talk about the life of a disciple as a life of surrender.

Each week, we will watch the video together and then work through a series of discussion questions and activities based on what we heard in the video.

WATCH THE VIDEO TOGETHER

DISCUSSION

Topic 1: The Gospel
Chad said in the video, "There is nothing more basic or foundational to following Jesus than the gospel itself."

Do you agree with this statement? If so, why? What makes the gospel so important?

- As Chad said, "in many ways, everything about the basics of discipleship rests on the truth of the gospel and flows from the depths of the gospel."

Have you ever heard the gospel presented in the way that Chad used?

- God, Man, Christ, Response, Life (*Gospel Threads* handout)

Why is understanding God's holiness and perfection fundamental to grasping the gospel?

How does recognizing your sinfulness and God's mercy relate to your personal response to Jesus?

Activity: **The Gospel Worksheet** (blank piece of paper) **& *Gospel Threads* Handout**

On a blank piece of paper, write down the 5 words Chad used in sharing the gospel. Beside each one, write some quick notes about this topic, considering ways you could share this truth with others. On the Gospel Threads handout, highlight or underline key words or verses that will help you remember the main points to share.

Topic 2: Your Salvation Testimony
Do you remember the first time you heard the gospel? If so, what do you remember?

When did you know that it was time for you to respond to the gospel?

How has the gospel impacted different areas of your life?

Can you think of a specific time when the gospel changed your perspective or your response to your life circumstances?

Activity: Your Salvation Testimony Worksheet (printed worksheet)
*This is an activity to develop your **2-minute testimony.**

Distribute the Salvation Testimony worksheets and introduce the Salvation Testimony outline.

- What was your life like before Christ? (the problem)
- How did you come to Christ? (the solution)
- What is your life like now with Christ? (the resolution)

Quickly share your salvation testimony.

Give class members a few minutes to write notes on the worksheet about their salvation testimony.

If time allows, share the following tips for their salvation testimony.

1. Don't get into details about how old you were.
2. Don't say you were "born into a Christian home."
3. Don't be overly descriptive of the darker days.
4. Avoid using "Christianese" words and phrases that unbelievers may not understand. (sin, inviting Jesus into my heart, walking the aisle, etc.)
5. Do mention the person and work of Jesus Christ in 3 points - He is the Son of God, He died on the cross, He rose from the dead.
6. Do mention humankind's problem of sin.
7. Do mention the truth of the Bible.
8. Ask a question at the end. Something like, "Can you identify with my story?"
9. Your goal in sharing your salvation story should be 2 minutes or less.

Wrap Up

Ask learners to think of the names of a few people they know who need to hear the gospel and who might be open to hearing their salvation story.

Take a few minutes to pray for opportunities and for boldness to share the gospel this week.

GOSPEL THREADS (from the book by David Platt & included with permission)

BASICS: Week 1 - The Gospel

1. **The Character of GOD:**

- **God is holy.**
  - Isaiah 43:15 - "I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King."
  - Isaiah 6:3 - "And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

- **God is just.**
  - Prov. 17:15 - "He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous are both alike an abomination to the Lord."
  - Rom. 2:6-11 - "He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality."

- **God is gracious.**
  - Titus 2:11-14 - "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works."
  - Eph. 1:7-10 - "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.
  - Rom 3:23-24 - "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus"

2. **The Sinfulness of MAN:**

- **We are created by God.**
  - Gen. 1:26-30 - "Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so."

- **We are corrupted by sin.**
  - Rom 3:23 - “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

- **We have rebelled against God.**
  - Rom 3:12 - “All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”

- **We are separated from God.**
  - Isaiah 59:2 - “…but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.”
  - Eph. 2:12 - “…remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.”

- **We are dead without God.**
  - Eph. 2:1 - “And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience”

3. The Sufficiency of CHRIST:

- **Who Jesus is**
  - Matt. 11:29-30 - “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.”

- **What Jesus has done**

  - He lived the life that we could not live.

    - John 3:5 - “Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”
    - Heb. 4:15 - “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.”

  - He died the death that we deserve to die.

    - Rom. 6:23 - “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
    - I Peter 2:24 - “He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.”

  - He conquered the enemy that we cannot conquer.

    - Col. 2:13-15 - “And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.”

- Rev. 1:17-18 - “When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.”
- 1 Cor. 15:55-57 -””O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

4. RESPONSE: The Necessity of Faith

- **Repentance and faith**
  - Mark 1:15 - “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”
  - Acts 2:37-38 - “Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” And Peter said to them, “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.”
  - Rom. 10:9 - “if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

- **Savior and Lord**
  - Rom. 10:12-13 - “For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”
  - Gal. 2:20 - “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”
  - John 3:16 - ””For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

5. LIFE: The Urgency of Eternity

- **A Dreadful Reality**
  - Matt. 10:28 - “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”
  - Mark 9:43-48 - “And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, ‘where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.’”
  - 2 Thess. 1:9 - “They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might.”

- **A Glorious Reality**
  - Rev. 21:3 - “And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.”
  - Phil. 3:20-21 - “But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.”

SALVATION TESTIMONY WORKSHEET

BASICS: Week 1 - The Gospel

What was your life like before Christ?
How did you feel? What were you looking for?

What happened that caused you to repent and turn to Jesus?
How did you come to hear and know the Truth? What role did Scripture play in your decision? Did you feel convicted of sin? What did you believe? How did you respond to the Truth?

What is your life like now that you have turned your life over to Christ?
What is different? How do you feel now compared to how you felt before Christ? What have you learned? How are you sharing the gospel with others?



CLASSROOM SETUP

You will need access to the session videos and a TV with the proper connections.

The best set-up for this class, if space allows, will be three or four tables (depending on the size of the class) with 6-8 people at each table.

If space does not allow for tables, you will need to form huddles for discussion following the video.

Supplies:

- TV & adapters
- Pens
- Handouts from last week (for any newcomers)
- The *One Anothers of Scripture* handout
- *Church Covenant* handout

BEGINNING THE SESSION

Get to know each other. Take a moment to introduce yourself and get to know the new people in the group. Because this class is very discussion-oriented, it is important to build relationships where people feel comfortable sharing their thoughts freely.

Reminder about the series. Our goal in these 8 weeks will be to discover and discuss some biblical principles for following Jesus.

In **session 1**, we looked at the Gospel and its impact on our lives.

In **session 2**, we will look at the Great Commandment.

Build on the previous session.
Discuss last week's activities using the following discussion prompts.

Were any of you able to weave the gospel threads into a conversation this week? If so, would you be willing to share with us how it went?

Did any of you write out your 2-minute testimony using the worksheet? If so, can you share with us how that process went?

Did any of you have an opportunity to share your testimony with anyone? Your spouse, child, relative, friend, or co-worker?

WATCH THE VIDEO

DISCUSSION

Topic 1: Loving God
Let's look again at the Great Commandment.

Matthew 22:36-40
36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" **37** And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. **38** This is the great and first commandment. **39** And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. **40** On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

The greatest commandment is to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength (according to Jesus in Luke 10:27).

At your tables, discuss the difference between each.
What does it mean to love God with your heart? With your soul? With your mind? Or with your strength?

What are some ways that we can grow in our love for God?
Have each table report back to the full group.
Be sure to highlight the importance of reading, studying, meditating, and memorizing of Scripture; prayer; practicing gratitude; etc…

Discussion 2: Loving Others
Jesus said the second greatest commandment is to "love your neighbor as yourself."

In the video, Chad implied that we must first love God (the greatest commandment) in order to truly love others (the second greatest commandment).

At your tables, discuss the following:
Do you agree?
If so, how would you say that loving God helps us in learning how to love others well?

Let's look at some of the "one another" statements in Scripture. There are quite a few of them.

Distribute handout: One Anothers of Scripture
At your tables, read over the handout. Consider the one anothers of Scripture.

- Do any of them surprise you?
- Which ones stand out to you the most?
- Which ones are tougher to live out?
- What do these have to do with the church?

Discussion 3: Belong, Gather, Send
Chad mentioned that as a church we love one another by covenanting together to belong, gather, and send.

We use these words in our Church Covenant at Colonial Heights. What words do you use at your church to help you remember we are supposed to be doing as a church?

Distribute copies of the Church Covenant.
This can be the one from Colonial Heights (included) or an equivalent document that fits your context.

If you are using the Colonial Heights Church Covenant for this exercise, instruct participants at each table to work together to develop a brief outline of what it means to belong, gather, and send.

If you are using your own church covenant, instruct participants at each table to work together to develop brief outline of the main tenets of your covenant.

When each table has completed the outline, ask the following questions.

- Which one stands out to you the most?
- Were you surprised by any of them?
- What is your favorite part of being part of your local church?

WRAP UP

As we wrap up, I would challenge you to consider

- How are you doing in fulfilling the greatest commandments?
- Are you growing in your love for God?
- Are you growing in your love for people?

Pray, asking the Lord to help you grow in both loving God and loving people.

Next Week: Session 3 - The Great Commission

The One Anothers of Scripture

BASICS: Week 2 - The Great Commandment

- **Love one another:** A recurring theme, with multiple verses emphasizing the importance of loving each other as Christ loved them (John 13:34, 15:12, 15:17).
- **Serve one another:** Galatians 5:13 encourages believers to serve one another in love.
- **Bear one another's burdens:** Galatians 6:2 instructs believers to carry each other's burdens.
- **Forgive one another:** Ephesians 4:32 and Colossians 3:13 highlight the importance of forgiveness within the community.
- **Pray for one another:** James 5:16 emphasizes the power of prayer and encourages believers to pray for each other.
- **Be devoted to one another:** Romans 12:10 encourages brotherly love and devotion to one another.
- **Honor one another:** Romans 12:10 also encourages believers to honor one another above themselves.
- **Be kind and compassionate to one another:** Ephesians 4:32 encourages believers to be kind and compassionate to one another.
- **Submit to one another:** Ephesians 5:21 encourages believers to submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.
- **Confess your sins to one another:** James 5:16 suggests confessing sins to one another.
- **Build one another up:** 1 Thessalonians 5:11 encourages believers to build one another up.
- **Bear with one another in love:** Ephesians 4:2 instructs believers to be patient and bear with one another in love.
- **Instruct one another:** Romans 15:14 encourages believers to instruct one another.
- **Have equal concern for each other:** 1 Corinthians 12:25 emphasizes the importance of having equal concern for each other.
- **Live in harmony with one another:** Romans 12:16 encourages believers to live in harmony with one another.

Church Covenant

Colonial Heights Baptist Church
BASICS: Week 2 - The Great Commandment

We Belong: Choosing to be a member of Colonial Heights Baptist Church, we commit to love and serve one another in the following ways (Acts 2:42-47):

- As members, we will love each other in a way that will let the world know we are believers. (John 13:35, Acts 4:32-37)
- As members, we will be held accountable for sin, and the church will be responsible to provide redemption-oriented discipline when necessary. (Matthew 18:15-17; Hebrews 10:24)
- As members, we will trust and pray for the appointed leadership within the church as they submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. (1 Timothy 3; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-11)

We Gather: Choosing to be a member of Colonial Heights Baptist Church, we commit to gather together for worship and participate in the following ways (Hebrews 10:25):

- As members, we will collectively sit under the authority of the Word of God as it is preached and taught. (1 Timothy 4:13; 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 4:2)
- As members, we will worship the Lord with truthful passion. (Psalm 150; John 4:24)
- As members, we will participate in the fellowship of the Lord's Supper. (1 Corinthians 11:17-34)
- As members, we will steward all of our resources (time, talents, and finances) for the glory of God. (Malachi 3:6-12; Matthew 6:1-34)
- As members, we will pray proactively and continually for the Holy Spirit to accomplish great work in us, in our neighborhood, and in all nations. (1 Thessalonians 5:17; James 5:16; Colossians 4:2-4)

We Send: Choosing to be a member of Colonial Heights Baptist Church, we commit to send and be sent to make disciples in the following ways (Matthew 28:19-20):

- As members, we will make disciples in our home, our community, and around the world. (Psalm 67, Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8)
- As members, we will send out and/or be sent out to advance the Kingdom of God. (Acts 13:1-5, 17:1-9; 1 Thessalonians 1-2)
- As members, we will honor our parents, spouse, and/or our children in accordance with the designed plan of God. (Proverbs 31, Ephesians 5:22-6:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7)
- As members, we will care for widows, orphans, the unborn, and those who cannot care for themselves. (Psalm 139; Acts 6:1-7; James 1:27)



CLASSROOM SETUP

You will need access to the session videos and a TV with the proper connections.

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If space does not allow for tables, you will need to form huddles for discussion following the video.

SUPPLIES

- TV & adapters
- Pens
- Handouts from last week (for any newcomers)
- Discussion Questions Handout

BEGINNING THE SESSION

Get to know each other. Take a moment to introduce yourself and get to know the new people in the group. Because this class is very discussion-oriented, it is important to build relationships where people feel comfortable sharing their thoughts freely.

Reminder about the series. Our goal in these 8 weeks will be to discover and discuss some biblical principles for following Jesus.

In **session 1**, we looked at the Gospel and its impact on our lives.

In **session 2**, we looked at the Great Commandment.

In **session 3**, we will look at the Great Commission.

Build on previous sessions.

Discuss the last two sessions' activities using the following discussion prompts.

- Did you write your salvation testimony? Did you share it with anyone?

- Have you found any opportunities to weave some gospel threads into your conversations?
- Have you added any purposeful ways to grow in your love for God?
- Have you looked for ways that you can express your love for others?

WATCH THE VIDEO

DISCUSSION

Explore the Great Commission
Ask everyone to turn to Mathew 28:18-20. Read it aloud.

1. What does "all authority" given to Jesus tell us about our confidence in following His commands?
2. How do you understand the roles of evangelism, baptism, and teaching in making disciples?

Explain the Plan
But how do we go about obeying the Great Commission? Let's look at the model Chad presented. Write the categories on the board (see below). Then, ask the class to share what they remember about each category (see hints below).

- **Mandate** - "expose the truth and explain the truth"
- **Model** - "showing the truth that has been explained"
- **Mobilize** - "make disciples who make disciples"
    - 30 years...1,073, 741, 824
- **Mode** - "through the church, by the Spirit"

Distribute copies of the "Discussion Questions" handout.

Have the table discuss **questions 1-3** and report back to the group.

If time permits, have the tables discuss questions 4 & 5 and then report back to the group. If not, encourage the participants to answer questions 4 & 5 at home this week.

WRAP UP

Assign questions 4 and 5 for homework, if you did not have time to answer them in class.

Can you come up with the name of one person you know who needs to hear the gospel? Would you be willing to share the gospel with them this week? (Remember we are not responsible for the outcome. Only God, through His Holy Spirit, can convict someone of sin and bring them to repentance.)

Discussion Questions

BASICS: Week 3 - The Great Commission

1. How can you personally mandate, model, and mobilize the gospel in your context?

2. Which part of the Great Commission (evangelize, baptize, teach) do you feel most comfortable with? Which do you want to grow in?

3. How does the Holy Spirit empower and guide us in obeying Christ's command to make disciples?

4. What is your disciple-making plan, and what steps will you take this week?

5. How can the church support and encourage your efforts in obeying the Great Commission?



CLASSROOM SETUP

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SUPPLIES

- TV & adapters
- Pens
- Handouts from last week (for any newcomers)
- Discussion Questions Handouts

BEGINNING THE SESSION

Get to know each other. Take a moment to introduce yourself and get to know the new people in the group. Because this class is very discussion-oriented, it is important to build relationships where people feel comfortable sharing their thoughts freely.

Reminder about the series. Our goal in these 8 weeks will be to discover and discuss some biblical principles for following Jesus.

In **session 1**, we looked at the Gospel and its impact on our lives.

In **session 2**, we looked at the Great Commandment.

In **session 3**, we looked at the Great Commission.

In **session 4**, we will consider God's direction in our lives.

Build on previous sessions.

Discuss last week's activities using the following discussion prompts.

- Did you write your salvation testimony? Did you share it with anyone?
- Have you found any opportunities to weave some gospel threads into your conversations?
- Have you considered someone you can encourage in the faith, someone you can help in their discipleship?

WATCH THE VIDEO

DISCUSSION

Table Discussions
Chad, in the video, is talking about discerning God's will. I hear this idea all the time from people who are praying about all kinds of questions in life… about jobs, about relationships, about important decisions. Chad suggested that we change our perspective when it comes to discerning God's will about doing things for the Lord, like sharing the gospel with a neighbor, going on a mission trip, accepting God's call to the nations, or going into full-time ministry.

Chad suggested that rather than assuming the answer is "no" unless God hits us with a lightning bolt or writes something on the wall, we should instead assume that God's answer is "yes" and start taking some action steps in the journey.

Distribute copies of the Discussion Questions handout.

Let the groups discuss for 10-15 minutes. Then, begin going through the questions one-by-one, asking each table to share things they discussed.

WRAP UP

Wrap up by issuing a challenge for the week ahead.
Let's consider ways we can "assume yes."
Over the next week, would you be willing to do one (or all) of the following?

- Would you be willing to fast from at least one meal this week and pray for God's guidance on a particular issue?
- Would you consider signing up for a short-term misison trip or gathering more information about how you could?
- Name one person you know who needs to hear the gospel. Would you be willing to "assume yes," that God has placed you in his/her life for that purpose? And if so, would you be willing to share the gospel with them this week?

Discussion Questions

BASICS: Week 4 - Assume Yes

1. How do you typically seek clarity from the Holy Spirit about where God is calling you?

2. What patterns can you observe in Scripture about how the early church discerned God's direction?

3. When have you experienced or witnessed the Holy Spirit leading you or your church to new ministry opportunities?

4. How can fasting, prayer, and worship help you understand God's call?

5. What are some practical ways you can ask, listen, and respond to the Holy Spirit's prompting?

6. How might you start sharing the gospel or going on mission in your community or abroad?

7. What steps will you commit to this week to assume yes to God's call?



CLASSROOM SETUP

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If space does not allow for tables, you will need to form huddles for discussion following the video.

SUPPLIES

- TV & adapters
- Pens
- Handouts from last week (for any newcomers)
- Discussion Questions handout

BEGINNING THE SESSION

Get to know each other. Take a moment to introduce yourself and get to know the new people in the group. Because this class is very discussion-oriented, it is important to build relationships where people feel comfortable sharing their thoughts freely.

Reminder about the series. Our goal in these 8 weeks will be to discover and discuss some biblical principles for following Jesus.

In **session 1**, we looked at the Gospel and its impact on our lives.

In **session 2**, we looked at the Great Commandment.

In **session 3**, looked at the Great Commission.

In **session 4**, we began to “assume yes” is God’s answer for us to share the gospel or commit our lives to His plans.

In **session 5**, we will consider the idea that Deep Roots Bear Fruit.

Build on previous sessions.

Discuss last week's activities using the following discussion prompts.

- Did you write your salvation testimony? Did you share it with anyone?
- Have you found any opportunities to weave some gospel threads into your conversations?
- Have you considered someone you can encourage in the faith? Someone you can help in their discipleship?
- Did anyone fast last week? If so, how did it go?
- Has anyone had an opportunity to share the gospel with anyone since this class began?

WATCH THE VIDEO

DISCUSSION

Distribute copies of the Discussion Questions handout.

Let the table groups discuss for 10-15 minutes. Then, begin going through the questions one-by-one, asking each table to share things they discussed.

WRAP UP

Encourage participants to make a plan for ways they can meditate on Scripture in their daily lives using the In and Out, Up and Down outline.

Take Scripture IN.
- Hear it. Read it. Study it. Memorize it.

Live Scripture OUT.
- Let Scripture influence your relationships.

Look UP to Jesus.
- Pray about the Scripture you are reading. Ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten you to its meaning and implications for your life.

Look DOWN to your feet.
- Discern what the Holy Spirit is leading you to change about your life as you seek to apply the Scriptural truth.

Discussion Questions

BASICS: Week 5 - Deep Roots Bear Fruit

1. In what ways are your roots spiritually deepening? How does this affect your spiritual health?

2. How does Psalm 1 describe the relationship between delighting in God's Word and bearing fruit?

3. How can you intentionally deepen your roots through Scripture meditation, prayer, and confession?

4. What are some practical ways to implement "In, Out, Up, and Down" in your spiritual walk?

5. How has God’s Word helped you in difficult seasons or challenges?

6. Which areas of your life need deeper roots — personal growth, evangelism, or relationships?

7. How are your deep roots affecting your fruitfulness in loving others and sharing the gospel?



CLASSROOM SETUP

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SUPPLIES

- TV & adapters
- Pens
- Handouts from last week (for any newcomers)
- *Growing Disciple Characteristics* Worksheet

BEGINNING THE SESSION

Get to know each other. Take a moment to introduce yourself and get to know the new people in the group. Because this class is very discussion-oriented, it is important to build relationships where people feel comfortable sharing their thoughts freely.

Reminder about the series. Our goal in these 8 weeks will be to discover and discuss some biblical principles for following Jesus.

In **session 1**, we looked at the Gospel and its impact on our lives.

In **session 2**, we looked at the Great Commandment.

In **session 3**, we looked at the Great Commission.

In **session 4**, we began to “assume yes” is God’s answer for us to share the gospel or commit our lives to His plans.

In **session 5**, we considered how Deep Roots Bear Fruit.

And now, in **session 6**, we will look at aspects or characteristics of a growing disciple of Jesus.

Build on previous sessions.

Discuss last week's activities using the following discussion prompts.

- Did you write your salvation testimony? Did you share it with anyone?
- Have you found any opportunities to weave some gospel threads into your conversations?
- Have you considered someone you can encourage in the faith, someone you can help in their discipleship?
- Did anyone fast last week? If so, how did it go?
- Has anyone had an opportunity to share the gospel with anyone since this class began?

WATCH THE VIDEO

DISCUSSION

Write the definition of a growing disciple on a marker board.
Bring attention to each part of the definition.

- We believe a **growing disciple** is an obedient follower of Jesus who is an active **member**, **worshiper**, **servant**, **steward**, and **disciple-maker** in and through the local church for the glory of God in all nations.

Why is it important that a growing disciple is an "**obedient follower of Jesus**"?

Underline the 5 characteristics of a growing disciple (member, worshiper, servant, steward, disciple-maker).
Tell the group we will discuss these further in a few minutes.

Ask:
- Why is it so important that a disciple grow in the **context of a local church**?
- Why is it important to have a focus on the **glory of God in all nations**?

Activity:

Distribute copies of the *Growing Disciple Characteristics* worksheet.

Ask the following questions and have participants brainstorm and discuss ideas while making notes in the appropriate categories.

1. Which of these areas do you feel **strong** in, and which areas need more attention or **growth**?

2. How can you engage in each of these areas in your **everyday life**?

3. What is your role in that particular area as it relates to our **church**?

WRAP-UP

After discussing each of these questions and the group's responses, ask the following questions to wrap up the session.

- How does being connected to the church and other believers help you stay **accountable** and **grow**?

- What are your **next steps** to become a more active, engaged disciple in these areas?

Provide a link to the **GROWING DISCIPLE SELF-ASSESSMENT**.

Ask participants to complete the assessment at home this week.

Offer to meet with them about the results or about any questions they may have.

Growing Disciple Characteristics

MEMBER

Everyday Life:

In My Church:

WORSHIPER

Everyday Life:

In My Church:

SERVANT

Everyday Life:

In My Church:

STEWARD

Everyday Life:

In My Church:

DISCIPLE-MAKER

Everyday Life:

In My Church:



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SUPPLIES

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In **session 5**, we considered how Deep Roots Bear Fruit.

In **session 6**, we looked at the characteristics of a growing disciple of Jesus.

Now, in **session 7**, we will consider how we can do all that we do ***for the sake of the nations.***

WATCH THE VIDEO

DISCUSSION

Ask everyone to open their Bibles to Psalm 67.
Read it out loud together.

Psalm 67

> **1** May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, **2** that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. **3** Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! **4** Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. **5** Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! **6** The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, shall bless us. **7** God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear him!

Ask: How does Psalm 67 inspire your view of God's mission among all nations?

Write these words on the marker board:

- Pray
- Fast
- Study
- Give
- Go
- Send

Ask the group to identify ways they can get involved in each of these activities “for the sake of the nations.”

WRAP UP

Talk for a little while about global missions.
Point out some of the work your church does.
Ask the group about their involvement or about questions they may have.



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In **session 6**, we looked at the characteristics of a growing disciple of Jesus.

In **session 7**, we considered how we can do all that we do for the sake of the nations.

This week, we will wrap up with **session 8** and discuss the idea of **Surrender**.

WATCH THE VIDEO

DISCUSSION

Take some time to discuss the final question from the video:
Have you ever experienced a moment where you were "stopped and stared" — overwhelmed by God's presence or truth? What was that moment like?

Ask everyone to turn to Isaiah 6.
Read it slowly together, emphasizing the majesty of God and the humility of Isaiah. Spend some time discussing Isaiah's response of surrender in verse 8.

Use some of the following questions to prompt discussion.

1. How do Isaiah's reactions in Isaiah 6 inform your understanding of God's holiness?
2. In what areas of your life do you need to surrender more fully to Jesus?
3. How does seeing God for who He truly is impact your view of yourself and your sinfulness?
4. What does it mean to "confess" your sins to God, and how can this practice lead to healing and renewal?
5. When you hear God's call, like Isaiah's, what is your typical response? How can you cultivate a Spirit-led "Here I am, send me" attitude?
6. Why do you think the phrase "holy, holy, holy" emphasizes God's indescribable majesty and sovereignty?
7. How can surrendering to God's will bring true freedom and purpose in your life?
8. Are there things or parts of your life that you are holding back from God? How can you genuinely surrender them today?
9. What steps can you take to regularly pause, reflect, and respond in surrender to God's ongoing call in your life?

BASICS WRAP-UP

In these 8 weeks, we have talked through

- **The Gospel**
- **The Great Commandment**
- **The Great Commission**

We've talked about the idea of "**assuming yes**" to the Lord's call.

We dug into how **Deep Roots Bear Fruit**

- Deep Discipleship
- Deep Relationships
- Every Member involved in Personal Evangelism
- Every Household involved in Global Mission

We looked at the Five Characteristics of a **Growing Disciple**

- Member
- Worshiper
- Servant
- Steward
- Disciple Maker

And then, last week, we talked about how we leverage all these things **For the Sake of the Nations.**

- Pray
- Fast
- Study
- Give
- Go
- Send

And now, we are wrapping up with the idea of **Surrender**. It's the perfect way to wrap up this study. Reminding us all that we need to surrender everything to the Lord. He is worth it!