



# STEP ONE: KNOW GOD

## Our Hope For You

Our hope is to give you an introduction to who Jesus Christ is and the essential habits that enable you to deepen your relationship with Him.

*And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.*

*Colossians 2:6-7 (NLT)*

## The Foundation

Scripture reveals that Jesus is the truest manifestation of what God is like. How we view God must surrender to what we see in Jesus.

*Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.*

*Colossians 1:15 (NLT)*

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Jesus reveals to us that God is a loving Father who wants to interact with us through grace and truth, not law and legalism, not works and performance. It is man's response to this free gift of grace that enables him to live the eternal kind of life now and in the life to come.

*For the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is himself God, is near to the Father's heart. He has revealed God to us.*

*John 1:17-18 (NLT)*

*And this is the way to have eternal life — to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth.*

*John 17:3 (NLT)*

Knowing God is tied to a deep intimate relationship which can be illustrated by the marriage covenant. Saying "I do" to Jesus is the first step into the Christian life.

The stability of any healthy marriage is dependent on daily choices. These daily choices either support or detract from the original vows. When our choices match the actions of Christ, we are engaging in eternal life.

*Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."*

*John 14:6 (NLT)*

## **Every New Believer's Next Step - Baptism**

Following Jesus in water baptism is an outward expression of the internal vow we make to follow him.

*One day when the crowds were being baptized, Jesus himself was baptized. As he was praying the heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit, in bodily form, descended on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, "You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy."*

*Luke 3:21-22 (NLT)*

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## Essential Habits

*All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need.*

*Acts 2:42-45 (NLT)*

- **Bible Study and prayer** - vs.42
- **Living a Spirit-filled and Spirit-led life** - vs.43
- **Giving of ourselves** - vs.45
- **Breaking of bread and fellowship with other believers** - vs.42

## Bible Study

Bible Study and Prayer sustain a vibrant relationship with God.

*All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.*

*2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT)*

### **How do I deepen my relationship with Jesus through scripture reading?**

- **Accept its authority.**

We believe that the Holy Bible is the authoritative written word of God. It alone is the final authority in determining all doctrinal truths. In its original writing it is inspired, infallible, and inerrant.

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**- Absorb its truths.**

- **Hear** God's Word.

*So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.*

*Romans 10:17 (NLT)*

- **Read** God's Word

*God blesses the one who reads the words of this prophecy to the church, and he blesses all who listened eagerly to Paul's message. They searched the Scriptures day after day to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the truth.*

*Revelation 1:3 (NLT)*

- **Study** God's Word

*And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul's message. They searched the Scriptures day after day to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the truth.*

*Acts 17:11 (NLT)*

- **Meditate** on God's Word

*But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night. They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.*

*Psalms 1:2-3 (NLT)*

**- Apply its principles.**

*Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.*

*John 13:17 (NLT)*

**Gather** one truth from your reading to reflect on.

**Record** what you learn in a journal and/or share it with someone.

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## **Respond to God's Word with obedience.**

*But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise you are only fooling yourselves.*

*James 1:22 (NLT)*

*Anyone who listens to my teachings and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock.*

*Matthew 7:24 (NLT)*

## **- Nurture your relationship with God through PRAYER**

Jesus exemplified a personal relationship with God through prayer that gave Him great strength. Every person who has ever been effective in service for God has developed this habit. The only way to be healthy Christian is to spend time with God daily through prayer.

*Always be joyful. Never stop praying.*

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-17 (NLT)*

### **1. In my daily prayer time, I am:**

#### **- Giving devotion to God.**

In all that he did in the service of the Temple of God and in his efforts to follow God's laws and commands, Hezekiah sought his God wholeheartedly. As a result, he was very successful.

*2 Chronicles 31:21 (NLT)*

#### **- Getting direction from God**

*Show me the right path, O Lord; point out the road for me to follow. Lead me by your truth and teach me, for you are the God who saves me. All day long I put my hope in you.*

*Psalm 25:4-5 (NLT)*

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## **- Growing in my relationship with God.**

O righteous Father, the world doesn't know you, but I do; and these disciples know how you sent me. I have revealed you to them, and I will continue to do so. Then your love for me will be in them, and I will be in them.

John 17:25-26 (NLT)

## **2. Follow Jesus' example.**

*Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went to an isolated place to pray.*

*Mark 1:35 (NLT)*

## **How do we make prayer a part of our everyday life?**

We can learn from three things that Jesus did:

### **- A Certain Time**

Jesus set aside time for prayer. For our prayer life to grow, we should do the same. Make a daily appointment with God and keep it.

### **- A Certain Place**

Your prayer place needs to be an undistracted environment where you can pray out loud and even have some worship music playing in the background.

### **- A Certain Plan**

Go into your prayer time with a plan. If it changes, that's fine. When Jesus taught His disciples to pray, He gave them a prayer, the Lord's Prayer, as we call it. This prayer, which can also be an outline for prayer, is a great place to begin a vibrant prayer life.

**\*\*You can find a practical guide to Bible study at the back of this packet\*\***

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## **Living a Spirit-Filled and Spirit-Led Life**

Having close relationships with other people is only part of God's plan for our lives. He desires to be our most intimate friend.

The Holy Spirit is the primary person that leads us into a deeper intimate relationship with God.

*May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

*2 Corinthians 13:14 (NLT)*

### **WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?**

#### **- The Holy Spirit is a person.**

*And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you.*

*John 14:16 (NLT)*

#### **- The Third Person of the Trinity (God-Head).**

*But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative — that is, the Holy Spirit - he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.*

*John 14:26 (NLT)*

### **WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT'S ROLE IN OUR LIVES?**

*Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, 'Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, 'Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?' He replied, 'The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere — in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'*

*Acts 1:4-8 (NLT)*

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**- The Holy Spirit enables us to know God's:**

**- Comfort**

*And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever.*

*John 14:16 (KJV)*

**- Conviction**

*But now I am going away to the one who sent me, and not one of you is asking where I am going. Instead, you grieve because of what I've told you. But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't com. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgement.*

*John 15:5-8 (NLT)*

**- The Holy Spirit empowered us to live with Christ-like:**

**- Character**

*But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

*2 Corinthians 3:18 (KJV)*

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance; against such there is no law.*

*Galatians 5:22-23 (KJV)*

**- Power**

*But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

*Acts 1:8 (KJV)*

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**- The Holy Spirit equips us with:**

**- Spiritual Gifts**

“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways. But it is the same God who does the work in all of us. A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other... “

1 Corinthians 12:4 (NLT)

**- Spiritual Direction**

*But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative — that is, the Holy Spirit - he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.*

John 14:26 (NLT)

**- The Holy Spirit speaks to us through:**

**- Dreams**

*I will pour out my spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams...*

Acts 2:17a (NLT)

**- Visions**

*And your young men will see visions*

Acts 2:17b (NLT)

**- The Word**

*Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path*

Psalms 119:105 (NLT)

*When the spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.*

John 16:13 (NLT)

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## HOW DO I LIVE A SPIRIT-FILLED AND SPIRIT-LED LIFE?

### - Request the gift of the Holy Spirit.

*You fathers — if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.*

*Luke 11:11-13 (NLT)*

### - Receive Him by Faith.

*You can pray for anything, and if you have faith, you will receive it.*

*Matthew 21:22 (NLT)*

### - Connect with Him daily.

*May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

*2 Corinthians 13:14 (NLT)*

### - The Holy Spirit:

**Guides us into all truth**

**Shows us things to come**

**Brings scripture to remembrance**



# Giving of Ourselves

The Gospel is the ultimate demonstration of God's generous nature towards mankind. The Bible consistently teaches that God blesses us so that we may bless others.

*For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.*

*John 3:16 (NLT)*

*They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do.*

*2 Corinthians 8:5 (NLT)*

## **AREAS OF GIVING**

### **- Our Time**

*So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days.*

*Ephesians 5:15-16 (NLT)*

### **- Our Talent**

*A Spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.*

*1 Corinthians 12:7 (NLT)*

### **- Our Treasure**

*If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.*

*Romans 12:8 (NLT)*

*Yes, you should tithe, but do not neglect the more important things.*

*Matthew 23:23 (NLT)*

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## **BENEFITS OF GIVING**

### **- Giving draws us closer to God.**

*Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.*

*Matthew 6:21 (NLT)*

### **- Giving is the remedy to materialism.**

*Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.*

*1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NLT)*

### **- Giving strengthens our faith.**

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding... Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine.*

*Proverbs 3:5, 9-10 (NLT)*

*So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.*

*James 2:17 (NLT)*

### **- Giving is an investment in eternity.**

*Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.*

*1 Timothy 6:18-19 (NLT)*

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## **Biblical Generosity is: Willing, Cheerful, Sacrificial, Hopeful**

*“You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure, for God loves a person who gives cheerfully.”*

*2 Corinthians 9:7-8 (NLT)*

## **Breaking of Bread and Fellowship with Other Believers**

God never intended for us to go through life alone. Throughout the Bible, we see the importance of being in community. In fact, authentic life-change happens in the context of relationships.

*And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.*

*Hebrews 10:25 (NLT)*

*They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity — all while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people.*

*And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.*

*Acts 2:46-47 (NLT)*

## **The Breaking of Bread in Communion**

*For I pass on to you what I received from the Lord himself. On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, He took the cup of wine after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant between God and his people — an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this in remembrance of me as often as you drink it.” For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord’s death until he comes again.*

*1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (NLT)*

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## What is communion?

### - It is a simple act.

On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus **took some bread**... vs.23

### - It is a reminder.

Then He broke it into pieces and said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this **to remember** me." vs.24

### - It is a symbol.

In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying. "**This cup** is the new covenant between God and his people — an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this to remember me as often as you drink it." vs.25

### - It is a statement of faith.

For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, **you are announcing the Lord's death** until he comes again. vs.26

## Fellowship with Other Believers Through Groups

### - How can a church grow larger yet maintain close relationships?

Everyone needs to be a part of a group.

### - Why are groups important?

Groups are opportunities for:

#### - Bible Study

People to strengthen and balance the Word of God in your life.

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- Fellowship

People who really know you.

- Prayer

People to pray for you personally.

- Support

People who will stand with you.

### **Essential Habits of a Healthy Believer (Personal and Corporate):**

**- Bible Study and Prayer**

**- Living a Spirit-Filled and Spirit-Led Life**

**- Giving Of Ourselves**

**- Fellowship and Grow With Others**

*But the Lord's plans stand firm forever; his intentions can never be shaken.*

*Psalm 33:11 (NLT)*

*This is not a reference to David, for after David had done the will of God in his own generation, he dies and was buried with his ancestors, and his body decayed.*

*Acts 13:36 (NLT)*

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## Congratulations on Completing Step One:

# Know God

Today you have heard about the essentials of the faith, and how to get to know God on a more personal level. You have learned about the great habit of Bible study and it's benefits, You have learned about prayer habits. You have learned about how to live as a spirit led individual. You have learned about giving and investing into the kingdom. Then we closed off with the benefit of being involved in a group. But all these are just words unless you put them into practice they will never change your life. Please know that we are here for you. Innovation Church exists to help others fulfill their unique purpose and how can you do that without knowing the God on a personal level. He has a specific plan for your life and whatever way we can help we will.

Thank you for your investment into this class, we hope to see you for Next Steps Part 2 : KNOW INNOVATION.

If you have any questions PLEASE ASK, email , call, etc.

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## **Bible Study - Practical Guide**

At Innovation, our desire is that every person could hear from God through His Word, wherever they already are at in the world! As we read the Bible, we begin to see how God responds to things. Spending time reading the Bible re-patterns the way we think, transforms the spirit of our mind, and helps us become more like Jesus!

**S.O.A.P.** is a simple and excellent way to both record and process what God is sharing with you. It's also a useful tool to use at a later time when you want to reflect on and review some of your great moments with God.

### **S - Scripture**

Find a part of the Bible that inspired you to study. The Gospel of John is a great place to start. You can find an online Bible and reading plans at [youversion.com](http://youversion.com) & [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com).

We'll use John 14:6 as an example:

*Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."*

John 14:6

### **O - Observation**

What do we see in this verse?

*- Hmm...Jesus said he was the way, the truth, and the life. He's saying that his direction, his way of thinking and living is the best way to connect with God.*

### **A - Application**

How does this impact my life?

*- If Jesus says that his way of living is best, maybe I should try doing as he does. I can try to forgive others, care for others as I do myself...yet these things are very difficult to do! I guess that's a challenge for me...challenge accepted!*

### **P - Prayer**

A simple prayer to God.

*- Today, I'll try to live your way, Jesus. Help me to forgive others and care for others as you did. As I do my best to do this, I know it makes you proud! Amen*

*(Amen means let it happen.)*

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**Step One:**  
**Know God**  
**Completion Form**

Check all that apply:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I believe in God.            | <input type="checkbox"/> I have repented.             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have been baptized.        | <input type="checkbox"/> I am filled with the Spirit. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have salvation assurance.  | <input type="checkbox"/> I pray privately.            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I worship privately.         | <input type="checkbox"/> I read God's Word.           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I believe Gods Word.         | <input type="checkbox"/> I live God's Word.           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> God is first in my day.      | <input type="checkbox"/> God is first in my week.     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> God is first in my finances. | <input type="checkbox"/> God is first in my talent.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> God is first in my desires.  |   |

I, \_\_\_\_\_, completed Step One on \_\_\_\_\_.  
(print name) (date)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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