

# Discipleship at IBC FAQ

## What is Foundation and how is it different from other ministries at IBC?

IBC does a lot of things really well and we have some of the best ministries and programs around (we might be slightly biased). But as our elders, pastors, and staff began to pray and think about where God might be leading us and the vision he has for IBC, it became clear that IBC needed a new discipleship strategy that was holistic and provided clear pathways for the men and women of IBC to be discipled in the way Jesus modeled in Matthew 4.18-22. In short, IBC desires to become a place where disciples make disciples who make disciples. We believe that is where God is calling us in these days. That's why we are launching an exciting and life-changing experience called Foundation.

**Simply put, Foundation is a nine-week discipleship experience where men and women gain a foundation for living as a missionary disciple in their everyday, ordinary lives.** It takes place in the context of life-on-life relationships. Foundation is not a Bible study, a class, or a small group, although it has some of those elements. It is a combination of inspirational large group teaching, life-on-life relationships with trained discipleship leaders investing relationally into those groups, and engaging curriculum. It is gospel-centered and also highly experiential. And by the way, you'll learn about the five rhythms of a missionary disciple here at IBC.

## Who is Foundation for?

Everyone. Whether you have been a follower of Jesus for three months or 20 years, Foundation is for you. And if you are still exploring who this Jesus is and what Christianity is about, Foundation is also for you. We believe Foundation is the primary strategy and pathway for discipleship at IBC for everyone.

## What can I expect during the 9 weeks of Foundation?

During the nine-weeks of Foundation, you will be introduced to foundational beliefs and key practices of what it looks like to follow Jesus, become like him, and ways to join him in blessing the world. **In short, we want to help you become a missionary disciple and we'll give you tools and practical ways to do that.**

Each Foundation experience on Sunday evenings will look a little different, and that is intentional. When you arrive at Foundation, each week you can expect...

- 15-20 minutes of engaging and inspirational teaching
- significant time for group interactions
- participatory experiences
- and a leader who will intentionally invest in you.

So the experiences you'll have, the group interactions, teaching, and curriculum will be fun and engaging, but will also ask you to take some risks along the way. Risks that will grow and stretch you. It's a challenge, but so worth it.

### **Is there a curriculum?**

Yep. Foundation does have a curriculum. You'll be given a guide that introduces foundational beliefs and key rhythms of what it looks like to follow Jesus, become like him, and ways to join him in blessing the world. In this guide you'll find weekly content with daily opportunities to learn, engage, and prayerfully journal. The guide will cover the five rhythms of a missionary disciple, the story of God, your unique story and gifting, the spiritual disciplines, worship, and what it means to be a part of the church.

### **Wondering how much time it might take for Foundation?**

Expect to spend an hour and a half each Sunday evening with your group in Foundation. The curriculum guide should take about 20-25 minutes to do each day. We are asking a lot, but it is worth the time, attention, and energy you put in.

### **What will I gain from experiencing Foundation and what are my next steps?**

At the end of Foundation, we believe you'll leave equipped and have a few next step opportunities in front of you.

**Equip** – You'll be equipped to continue growing in your relationship with God through the on-going practice of the five rhythms learned during Foundation.

**Serve** – You will know how God has uniquely created and gifted you. Foundation will help you find your place of service at IBC if you haven't already.

**Lead** – Some who go through Foundation will want to turn around and lead others in Foundation. Once a person goes through Foundation, we'd love for him or her to lead and disciple others.

**Bless** – You'll leave with a greater desire to join Jesus' mission in blessing others.

**Live** – Everyone leaves Foundation equipped to live as a missionary disciple in their everyday, ordinary life.