



Foundation 2 | Growing in a Relationship with God

REVIEW: Last week looked at the power of the gospel to transform our lives. Jesus gives us a new identity and we are now children of God. This week we are talking about Growing our Relationship with God and looking at what hinders us and how God works in our lives through His word and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Crowd-breaker

- What would you say is perhaps the strongest natural material known to humankind?
- What might be the strongest, most powerful device ever created by humankind?

Introductory Comments

The reason we began with these two questions is because they are similar to what we will be talking about today: those things in our lives that are powerful, binding, or act as what we call

“strongholds.” The topic of strongholds is one that all Christians face but may not often share. Well, as you know from this past week’s readings, we will be addressing that topic. I want to encourage you to be open and risk being vulnerable with each other. This is a safe place, and it needs to remain a safe place. We are ‘for’ each other and want the best for one another. So, as we enter into some potentially difficult topics, I want to encourage you to share.

We are going to have two discussions today. We will spend half of our time with some general discussion on the readings from this past week, and then halfway through we will wrap those up and split into same-gender groups to focus more specifically on those areas of our lives that we find difficult to navigate and may not admit that we need help.

All-Group Discussion – 30 minutes

1. Why is the Bible so important to a person’s spiritual growth? How has it impacted you personally?

2. What are some objections or attacks people direct toward the Bible? What are some possible responses to those objections? How much would you say you know the Bible?
3. When it comes to knowing God personally, He has given us the Holy Spirit. What does it look or feel like to be led by the Holy Spirit? Can you share instances where you know the Spirit was leading you?
4. Many Christians, if they were honest, would admit to feeling somewhat uncomfortable talking about the Holy Spirit. Why is that? Are you?

In addition to these questions, consider discussing any of the reflective questions from the past week's daily devotional readings as time permits.

Split-Group Strongholds Discussion – 30 minutes

1. How did Day 1 define a stronghold? What are some strongholds that you are struggling with in your life? Addiction? Fear? Anxiety? Heart idolatry? Insecurity? Bitterness? Effects from past trauma?
2. What lies does this world's system want you to falsely believe about yourself? What can we tell each other in this group to free us from that mindset?
3. What practical ways can you live in the reality that God is your new stronghold?
4. Satan will often pull the strings in your life of "feeling" by making you feel like you are not secure in your faith. How can you pause and distinguish the lie versus the truth?

Next Week Preview

Foundation 3 – The Reality of Family and the Daily Devotional Readings:

Day 1 - The Global Church

Day 2 - The Local Church

Day 3 - Mission and Priorities

Day 4 - Danger of Division

Day 5 – Fellowship