

FAITHWORLD CHURCH
FOUNDATIONS & NEW MEMBERSHIP

*Someone once said,
“The step towards getting somewhere is to decide that you are
not going to stay where you are.”*

These classes are designed to transform not only the way you think, but the way you live. Jesus taught that anything meant to last must be built on a solid foundation. We believe the same is true for your walk with God and your family life. True strength begins with a firm foundation in Him.

God has already provided every tool we need to build a life of purpose, stability, and impact. Our passion is to come alongside you and help you use those tools — so you can build a strong family, a solid faith, and a life that honors Him.

The goal of these classes is to establish a strong biblical foundation, awaken a desire for God’s will, and equip you for lasting success as a believer. Whether you’re new in your faith or have walked with Christ for many years, these lessons are designed to strengthen, inspire, and prepare you for what God has ahead.

In His Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samuel Cruz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'S' and 'C'.

Senior Pastor
Faithworld Church

THE BIBLE & KNOWING GOD

Purpose: To help students understand why the Bible is trustworthy and how it reveals God, leading to a personal relationship with Him.

A. THE SEARCH FOR GOD

Key Thought:

God is not discovered by man — God reveals Himself to man.

Psalm 119:105–107 (KJV)

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path...”

- People search for God through nature, science, philosophy, and religion.
- Human reasoning alone is limited and cannot fully understand God.
- God must choose to reveal Himself, which He does through His Word.

B. WHY THE BIBLE?

Definition:

Validity = The quality of being true, accurate, and proven.

The Bible has been tested through:

1. **History** (historical records align with biblical accounts)
2. **Science** (does not contradict observable science when properly understood)
3. **Archaeology** (artifacts confirm people, places, events)
4. **Prophecy** (future events predicted and fulfilled)

Answer (Reflection):

C. Why is it important that the Bible is trustworthy?

- Because it is our foundation for _____.
- It _____ our beliefs and decisions.
- If it is not trustworthy, our faith has no solid _____.

D. BIBLE PROPHECY

Definition:

Prediction of future events given by God.

- Prophecy shows God is outside of time.
- It demonstrates divine authorship of Scripture.

Scripture Comparison:

Zechariah 11:12–13

“So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver...”

Matthew 27:3–5, 7

“...they took counsel, and bought with them the potter’s field...”

What stands out about this prophecy?

1. It is very _____ (30 pieces of silver, potter’s field).
2. It was _____ hundreds of years before fulfillment.

Why does fulfilled prophecy matter?

1. It _____ the Bible is reliable.
2. It _____ confidence in God’s Word.

E. WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES US

1. God’s _____

James 1:18 “In His goodness [God] chose to make us His own children by giving us His true word”

- Meaning: God brings spiritual life and truth through His Word.

2. God's _____

Jeremiah 31:3 *"Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love; therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee."*

- Meaning: God's love is everlasting and initiated by Him.

3. God's _____

Psalm 18:30 *"This God—his way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him."*

- Meaning: God is perfect, faithful, and trustworthy.

4. Explains _____

Romans 5:12 *"When Adam sinned, sin entered the entire human race. His sin spread death throughout all the world, so everything began to grow old and die, for all sinned"*

- Meaning: Sin entered through Adam and affects all humanity.

5. _____

John 3:16 *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*

- Meaning: God provided salvation through Jesus Christ.

6. _____

2 Timothy 3:16–17 *"But understand this that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people."*

- Meaning: Scripture teaches, corrects, and matures believers.

F. BIBLE STRUCTURE

Why is it helpful to understand the structure of the Bible?

1. Helps _____ Scripture.
2. Provides context for understanding passages.
3. Shows the _____ of the message.

G. KNOWING GOD

Knowing vs Relationship

Matthew 7:22–23 "Many will say to me on that day, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophecy in your name and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?" Then I will tell them plainly, "I never knew you. Away from me you evildoers!"

Difference between knowing about God and knowing God:

- Knowing about God = information, facts.
- Knowing God = relationship, intimacy, personal experience.

GOD'S _____

Isaiah 55:8–9 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts."

Isaiah 40:28 "his understanding no one can fathom".

- God is infinite and beyond full human understanding.
- However, He reveals enough of Himself for relationship.

TWO KEYS TO KNOWING GOD

1. _____

- Reveals God's character, will, and promises.

2. _____

John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

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Why is Jesus essential?

1. He is the _____ way to the Father.
2. He _____ God fully in human form.

H. SEEKING GOD

Jeremiah 29:13 'Ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart- You will find me!

What does it mean to _____ God with your whole heart?

1. Being sincere and intentional.
2. Prioritizing time with God.
3. Removing distractions and pursuing Him fully.

I. GOD IS LOVE

1 John 4:7–8 “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and KNOWS God. And who does not love does not KNOW God because GOD IS LOVE.”

1 Corinthians 13:4–7 “Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.”

Attributes of God:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

J. GRACE & MERCY

Ephesians 2:4–9 “But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and SEATED with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the GIFT of God not by WORKS, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

- _____ = Not receiving punishment, we deserve
- _____ = Receiving blessings, we do not deserve

K. GOD AS FATHER

Hebrews 12:6 “For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.”

Why is discipline a _____ of love?

- It corrects and guides us
- It shows we belong to Him
- It helps us grow and mature

L. GOD’S PROMISES

Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

Isaiah 40:29–31

“He gives power to the weak, and to *those who have* no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall, But those who wait on the Lord shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”

What do these verses _____ about God?

- He has a plan for our lives
- He gives strength in weakness
- He is faithful and present

M. FINAL APPLICATION

1. Read the Bible daily.
2. Spend intentional time seeking God.
3. Apply God's Word in daily life.

PRAYER, FASTING & EFFECTIVE PRAYER

PURPOSE: Help you understand, apply, and develop consistent prayer and fasting disciplines based on biblical principles.

A. WHAT IS PRAYER?

Prayer is _____, _____, and _____ with God.

Prayer is two-way, not just speaking but listening.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 – 'pray without ceasing'

Romans 1:9 – 'without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers'

B. WHAT IS FASTING?

Fasting is _____ to increase spiritual sensitivity. It shifts dependence from natural to spiritual.

Psalms 69:10 – 'I humbled my soul with fasting'

Helps us to _____ more clearly.

Acts 13:2 – early church fasted and heard the Holy Spirit clearly.

2 Corinthians 11:27 – fasting was part of disciplined spiritual life.

C. JESUS OUR EXAMPLE

Jesus consistently withdrew to pray, showing dependence on the Father.

Mark 1:35 – 'He went to a solitary place and prayed'

Luke 5:16 – 'He often withdrew and prayed'

D. ATTITUDES OF PRAYER

1. _____ – **Hebrews 11:6** - (without faith impossible to please God)

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

2. _____ – **Psalms 35:13** - (humbling through fasting)

“But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth; I humbled my soul with fasting; and my prayer would return to my own heart.”

3. _____ – **1 John 5:14–15** (praying according to His will)

“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.”

4. _____ – **Psalms 24:3–4** (clean hands, pure heart)

“Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place?”

5. _____ – **Matthew 6:5–6** (private sincere prayer)

“And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.”

E. HOW TO PRAY

Step 1: _____ – James 4:2 (people do not receive because they do not ask)

“You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.”

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Step 2: _____ – James 1:6–7 (no doubting)

‘But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.’

Step 3: _____ – Mark 11:24 (believe you receive)

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Step 4: _____ – Philippians 4:6 (end with gratitude)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Step 5: _____ – You should base prayers on scripture, not feelings

F. FAITH IN PRAYER

James 5:15 – 'the prayer of faith will save the sick'
Faith is what activates prayer, not emotion or volume.

G. POWER OF PRAYER (DETAILED)

James 5:16 – 'effective, fervent prayer avails much'

Prayer changes situations AND the person praying.

Nothing happens spiritually without prayer – emphasize consistency and discipline.

H. CONSISTENCY & DISCIPLINE

Psalms 5:3 – 'My voice You shall hear in the morning'

Encourage daily rhythm. Morning prayer recommended but flexibility allowed.

Apply habit-building: consistency over intensity.

DISCUSSION PROMPTS

1. What blocks your prayer life?
2. What habits need to change?
3. When will you pray daily?
4. What would consistency look like for you?

COMMITMENT & LOYALTY IN THE CHURCH

PURPOSE: To guide students into understanding biblical commitment and loyalty and applying it in real-life relationships and church life.

Ephesians 2:19–22 (NKJV)

“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God...”

A. WHAT IS COMMITMENT?

1 Corinthians 6:17 (NKJV)

“But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.”

Genesis 2:24 (NKJV)

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

Commitment is not a _____ **— it is a decision to remain connected regardless of circumstances.**

Definition: To cleave, _____, **fasten, or** _____ **oneself to something.**

Commitment is covenant language. It reflects consistency, stability, and faithfulness.

Most people _____ **not with knowledge, but with** _____.

Where do you quit too quickly?

B. AREAS OF COMMITMENT

Commitment must exist in ALL key relationships or growth will be limited.

1. _____ – intimacy, prayer, obedience

1 Corinthians 6:17 “But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.”

2. _____ – daily intake, application

John 15:7 “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.”

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3. _____ – covenant loyalty

Genesis 2:24 “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

4. _____ – relational commitment

Ephesians 4:1-4 “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;*”

If one area is weak, it affects all others.

C. UNDERSTANDING THE CHURCH

You must SEE the church correctly to value commitment.

1. _____: 1 Peter 2:5 (NKJV)

“You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

- We are being built together

- You cannot be a temple alone

2. _____: 1 Corinthians 12:20–27 (NKJV)

“But now indeed there are many members, yet one body... Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.”

- Every part matters

- Disconnection weakens the whole

3. _____: Galatians 6:10 (NKJV)

“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

- Care, responsibility, love

- Not convenience — commitment

Key Point: Church is not an event — it is a connected life.

D. COMMITMENT IN ACTION (DEEPER)

Commitment is proven through behavior, not words.

Walk through 'one another' commands:

1. _____ **one another** - 1 Peter 1:22 (NKJV)
“Love one another fervently with a pure heart.”
2. _____ **one another** - 1 Peter 4:10 (NKJV)
“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another.”
3. _____ **one another** - Ephesians 4:32 (NKJV) “Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another.”
4. _____ **one another** - Romans 14:19 (NKJV) “Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.”

Which one is hardest for you?

Immaturity resists these commands.

E. COMMITMENT TO A LOCAL CHURCH (IMPORTANT)

You cannot grow spiritually while remaining disconnected.

Commitment must be local, not abstract.

Growth requires accountability.

This includes:

1. _____ (attendance)
2. _____ (leadership)
3. _____ (giving)
4. _____ (serving, caring)

This is not control — this is biblical structure.

F. LOYALTY

Loyalty is revealed in difficult moments, not easy ones.

Loyalty is remaining committed to those whom God has brought into our lives and has called us to serve, even in times of difficulty.

It is developing allegiance and respect in one another, and not seeking to manipulate the other person. Being loyal exhibits our commitment to Christ by our commitment--with discernment--to people and righteous causes at all times.

Proverbs 17:17; Ecclesiastes 8:2-4; John 15:13; Romans 13:1-5; Titus 3:1).

Loyalty is:

1. Remaining - _____
2. Showing - _____
3. Being – _____

We need to realize that in order to keep relationships functional, we must be dedicated, trustworthy, dependable, and committed. That means we do not gossip, we do not put down, we do not undermine, we do not play games; rather we model Christ and what He did for us!

Biblical example:

Proverbs 17:17 (NKJV)

“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.”

John 15:13 (NKJV)

“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”

Disloyalty looks like:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do people avoid commitment?
2. What causes disloyalty?
3. What needs to change in your life?
4. What does real commitment look like this week?

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

PURPOSE: To understand God’s principles for finances and recognize that everything belongs to Him and we are called to manage it faithfully.

A. GOD'S WAYS VS OUR WAYS

Focus: Replace human _____ with God’s perspective.

Isaiah 55:8–9 (NIV)

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

You must see finances as spiritual, not just practical.

B. GOD IS THE OWNER

Focus: _____ from 'mine' to 'God's'.

1 Chronicles 29:11 (NIV)

“Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head overall.”

Ownership changes every financial decision.

C. STEWARDSHIP

Focus: We are _____, not owners.

1 Corinthians 4:2 (KJV)

“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”

Faithfulness matters more than amount.

D. ACCOUNTABILITY

Focus: We will give an _____.

Luke 16:1–2 (NIV)

“There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. So he called him in and asked him, 'Give an account of your management.'”

Responsibility and consequences are so important.

E. BUDGETING

Focus: Planning _____ stewardship

1 Corinthians 4:1–2 (NIV)

“Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.”

A budget is a plan for money, not restriction.

F. APPLICATION

Focus: Move to _____.

Commit to one financial change this week.

G. REASONS TO START A BUDGET

1. Achieve Financial Goals
2. Biblical Stewardship

“So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.” (1 Corinthians 4: 1-2)

3. Reduces Anxiety
4. Improves Communication in your Marriage
5. A Budget Sets a Good Example

H. How to Start a Budget:

In a few steps you can start a budget to begin proactively planning and creating a purpose for each dollar in your wallet. There is plenty of great software available to start a budget and track personal spending. However, if you're just getting started, you may want to write out your budget using a **[budget form](#)** because you'll be making a lot of changes. You can then create your budget using your software of choice.

1. Identify Spending Categories

- **Giving:** tithing to your church or giving to nonprofit organizations
- **House:** electricity and utilities, TV and other expenses for your home
- **Food:** grocery store shopping
- **Auto:** auto insurance, gasoline, oil changes, car payments
- **Insurance:** life insurance, medical insurance, dental
- **Debt:** credit cards, student loans
- **Entertainment:** dining out, movies, vacations, blow money
- **Clothing:** seasonal clothing needs
- **Savings:** emergency fund savings, new car savings,
- **Medical:** over-the-counter medications, doctor co-pays
- **Miscellaneous:** anything that doesn't fit into another category
- **Investments:** investments outside of 401k, may include an IRA, Roth IRA, etc.
- **School/Childcare:** Pre-school and other school related expenses

2. Estimate Spending Categories

Here are a few tips to help you estimate your spending categories for your initial budget: Start Tracking Spending, Calculate

3. Prioritize Spending Categories

4. Use a Budgeting Form or Money Management Software

5. Balance Your Budget

I. TRACK PERSONAL SPENDING

Now that you have a budget, it's also important to know how much money you have left for each of your spending categories throughout the month. The good news is tracking personal spending can be easily accomplished in just a few minutes per day.

Guideline #1: Tracking personal spending is not a substitute for balancing a checking account or reconciling transactions with your financial institution.

Guideline #2: Try to set a few minutes aside each day to update your budget tracking tool with your personal spending transactions.

Guideline #3: Reallocate spending when necessary – actively manage your money

Guideline #4: At the end of the month, review your actual spending for each budget category in comparison to your planned spending.

Guideline #5: The fewer the transactions, the easier it is to track spending.