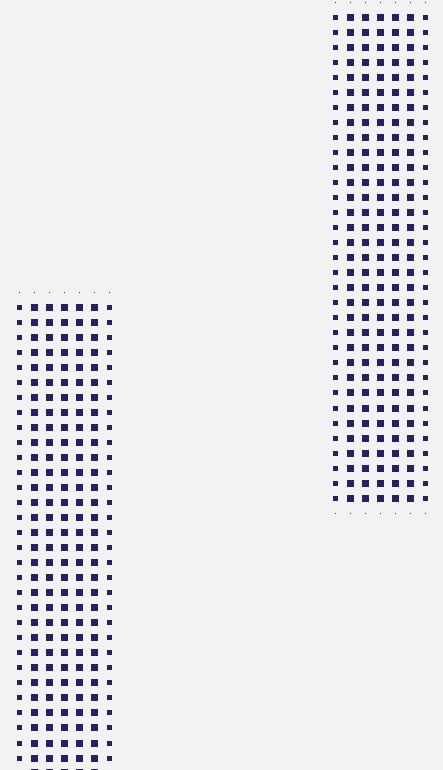




A SIX-WEEK  
DISCIPLESHIP  
MINISTRY  
FOR STUDENTS

# STARTING POINT



# INTRO PAGE

## **WHY STARTING POINT?**

Whether you have recently accepted Christ or you have been walking with Him for a while, we pray this six-week study will give you a foundation and an outline as you begin a discipleship relationship. When you are finished, we also pray that this will be something you can use to disciple someone else.

## **WHAT IS DISCIPLESHIP?**

Let's define it by looking at one of the most well-known passages in Scripture, the Great Commission, in which Jesus says,<sup>19</sup> *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,"*<sup>20</sup> *teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age"* (Matthew 28:19-20).

Here we are commanded to do three things:

- Evangelize ("make disciples")
- Baptize ("baptizing them")
- Teach ("teaching them")

*Discipleship* can be defined as "investing into others by teaching them to observe all that Jesus has commanded of us in order to multiply ourselves into them." This is what *Starting Point* is designed to do!

## **WHAT CAN I EXPECT FROM THIS?**

First, you are going to get out what you put into it. If you invest yourself into this and read/study what you are supposed to each week, you will get much out of it. If you come unprepared and don't spend any time on it, you won't get much out of it.

Second, you will memorize a verse each week. You may be thinking, "I don't know how to memorize six different verses!" In order to help you accomplish this, scan the QR code to the right and you will find helpful apps and methods to aid you in your memorization.



Third, communicate. If you are going to be late or miss a session, text and communicate that. If you need to reschedule, call and let us know. If you have questions about something in this book, ask about it.

Lastly, you will be launched to disciple a younger believer after this. Begin thinking and praying about whom that will be.

# CONTENTS

## **SESSION 1:** *page 5*

Faith Formation

## **SESSION 2:** *page 17*

Can You Trust the Bible?

## **SESSION 3:** *page 43*

Can You Be Secure in Your  
Relationship with Christ?

## **SESSION 4:** *page 57*

Knowing Who You Are in Christ

## **SESSION 5:** *page 71*

Talking with God

## **SESSION 6:** *page 85*

Making Disciples

**KNOWING  
WHO YOU  
ARE IN  
CHRIST**

**4**

If you want to break this session into days, use this guide:

Day 1: 58-59

Day 4: 65-66

Day 2: 60-62

Day 5: 67-69

Day 3: 63-64

Student-led pages: Empower your students to lead by giving them the following pages to lead during this session:

- Pages 60
- Pages 63
- Pages 66-67

# HERE WE GO

## Be Accountable for Your Bible Reading

- Be sure to discuss your Bible reading time with your discipleship partner before you begin this session.
- What did you read?
- How did God speak to you?
- How did you apply your reading to your life?

In this session, you will discover more about your identity as a Christian and how you are to view yourself as a follower of Jesus. Because of the forgiveness that God has provided for you through His Son, you can live securely in the confidence that God eternally loves you. Therefore, you do not need to focus on your own faults and failures.

## MEMORIZE *Galatians 2:20*

Write the verse to help memorize it.

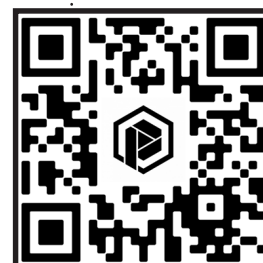
---

---

---

Fill in the blanks to help memorize it.

<sup>20</sup> I have been \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ. It is no longer \_\_\_\_\_ who \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_ who lives in \_\_\_\_\_. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, who \_\_\_\_\_ me and gave \_\_\_\_\_ for me.



Write the memory verse from last week on the lines below.

---

---

---

### FAITH DEFINITION

*Faith is choosing to live as though God's Word is true regardless of circumstances, emotions and cultural trends.*

"And without *faith* it is impossible to please him (God)..."

—Hebrews 11:6

"...whatever does not proceed from *faith* is sin."

—Romans 14:23

"for we walk by *faith*, not by sight."

—2 Corinthians 5:7



## TALK IT OUT

When we become Christians, we gain new identities, and God adopts us as His own children. Since we carry His name, we should strive to reflect His character. Changes are good and necessary in our lives. They affect us where we are today and are sometimes very difficult. There are times when we do not act or feel like children of God. Fortunately, no matter what we do or how we act, once we gain our new identity in Jesus at salvation, we can never act badly enough to lose that identity.

In Galatians 2:20, Paul wrote:

*"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."*

Paul mentions some important truths in the Scripture. Let us explore these truths and their significance to our daily Christian lives.

## **YOU HAVE TAKEN ON A NEW IDENTITY**

The New Testament Scriptures discuss our new identity in Jesus Christ. Google dictionary defines *identity* as “the characteristics determining who or what a person or thing is.” For the purposes of this study, we will look at these identity truths.

**You have been declared innocent of every charge against you.**

Look back at Galatians 2:20. To be “crucified with Christ,” means that when Christ died on the Cross, you died as well. Of course, you did not die in the flesh; you died to God’s wrath and the power of sin over your life.

**According to 1 Peter 2:24, what has Christ done with your sins?**

---

---

---

**What is the result?**

---

---

---

**Using 2 Corinthians 5:21 and Philippians 3:8–9, which of the following things has Christ given to us?**

- ☐ The righteousness of God
- ☐ Forgiveness of sin
- ☐ Entry into heaven
- ☐ Ability to read Scripture

**Knowing that 2 Corinthians 5:21 is true, how do you live it out? Write your answer below.**

---

---

---

Knowing that Philippians 3:8-9 is true, how do you live it out?  
Write your answer below.

---

---

---

The following image shows how God cannot look at us without seeing our sins.



The triangle represents the triune image of God.



The eye represents what God sees.



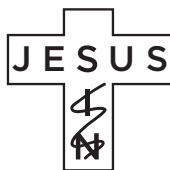
Sin represents your disobedience to God.



The person represents you.



Our sin separates us from God; therefore, when He looks at us, He sees our sin.



Then, when Jesus died on the Cross for our sins, He became the permanent sacrifice. We took on His righteousness. When God looks at us now, He sees us through the lens of the Cross!



## BEFORE THE CROSS

### JESUS

was righteous

was sinless

### WE

are unrighteous

are sinful



## THE RESULT OF JESUS' DEATH ON THE CROSS

### JESUS TOOK ON

our unrighteousness

our sinfulness

### WE TOOK ON

His righteousness

His sinlessness

*"He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son."*

—Colossians 1:13

## CONSIDER THIS

Imagine that you're waiting in your bedroom after being sent there by your parents. You know they are coming with punishment for your disobedience. You did exactly what they asked you not to do. You're just sitting and waiting to hear their footsteps coming up the stairs. You hear them approaching, however, they don't open your door, they open your brother's door. You hear conversation and then some tears. Your parents close the door to his room and then open your door. As they enter your room, a sense of anxiety rushes over you as you know what's coming. Your parents look at you and, to your disbelief, say, "Just so we're clear: You cheated on an exam, but your brother is going to take the punishment for you." Wait, what?! Why would he do that? Why would he take the punishment for something he didn't even do?

Your parents look at you one more time before leaving your room and say, "All right - you're forgiven for what you did. In fact, when you leave your room, it's as if you never cheated on that test."

**Read 1 John 2:1-2. What is your best friend's name?**

---

**Write 1 John 2:1-2.**

---

---

---

**What name is given to Jesus?**

---

**What is an advocate?**

---

**What does that mean for us?**

---

---



## **TALK IT OUT**

**In your own words, clarify what it means that Jesus is holy.**

---

---

**Do you think of yourself as a holy person like Jesus?  
Why or why not?**

---

---

Read 2 Corinthians 5:21 and Philippians 3:8-9. The Bible definitely says that each Christian has been declared righteous and enjoys a holy standing before God. **Do you believe that for yourself? Why or why not?**

---

---

---

**What would your life be like if you were to see yourself as a person who is holy before God?**

---

---

**Write a thank-you note to God that includes all that Christ has done for you based upon this lesson.**

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Sin no longer has power over you.**

**Read Romans 6:11-13 and explain how you are “dead to sin.”**

---

---

---

Many people would like to believe that being dead to sin means you no longer have a desire to sin. Unfortunately, this is not true. Since you have died to sin, and Christ lives His life through you, you no longer have to give in to sin when you are tempted. You now have the power to choose not to sin.

## **You have hope.**

If you have invited Jesus into your life, you can know that you will spend eternity with Jesus. While you are free from the power and punishment of sin during this lifetime, you will also enjoy the absolute absence of sin in heaven.

Read the following Scriptures and record what they say about your eternal life.

### **What does it mean to have hope?**

---

---

### **What happens when a person is hopeless?**

---

---



## **CONSIDER THIS**

Jacob moved to a new town and, likewise, a new school. He loved his old school, and it had been really hard to move. When he arrived midseason, it was too late for him to join the soccer team. He had played his whole life and loved it. He spent every weekend on the soccer field traveling all over the country. Having this part of his life and identity taken away, he felt way out of place and confused as to what he should do and even who he was.

Jacob was having an issue with his new identity at this new school without soccer. He hadn't really accepted who he was at this new school and didn't really know what to do next.

### **Do new Christians face a similar situation? Why or why not?**

---

---

Your identity is extremely important in your life to help you establish and determine who you are. When you become a Christian, you take on the identity of Jesus Christ instead of something that could be taken away in a moment. You have all the privileges and responsibilities that come with such an identity. Many Christians, like Jacob, do not understand their identity, and they go through life not truly understanding who they really are. If you do not understand and embrace your identity in Jesus Christ, you will have trouble completing all that God has intended for you to experience and accomplish.

**Where do you belong?**

---

---

---

**What's your new identity?**

---

---

## **TALK IT OUT**

God accepts us only on the basis of the death of Jesus Christ, His Son. It is a natural human response to believe that we should behave in certain ways in order to please Him and thus earn His acceptance and approval. If you believe that you must perform to earn God's acceptance and approval, then you will also believe that you must perform well enough to maintain His acceptance and approval.

**What are some things that replace God's approval in your life?**

---

---

---

What are some things that people do in the pursuit of God's acceptance and approval?

---

---

---

Why is it that many Christians believe that if they do not perform adequately then they will not sustain God's approval?

---

---

---

Paul discussed the new Christian's position in Christ in Romans 6:1-18. Read this passage and keep in mind the following three principles that can help believers live in the reality of their new identities.

**Reflect on the truths of your identity (Romans 6:3, 6, 8-9).**

- a. Your past sinful behavior does not have to have power over you because you have died with Christ.
- b. You will never be alone again because you are joined with Christ in a new life forever.
- c. You do not have to live your Christian life on your own strength because you have the power of Jesus available to live through you.

**Which of these truths is most encouraging to you?**

---

---

**Which of these truths is the most difficult to believe about yourself?**

---

---

What have you found your identity in recently?

---

---

**By faith, choose to see yourself in the light of your new identity (Romans 6:11).**

With your new identity come the truths that we just discussed. God loves you and will never leave you. Satan, however, still wants to trip you up and convince you that none of that is true. He may bring back memories of your sin from your life before Christ or even lead you to think that you can't be any different, even with a new life in Christ. It is crucial to understand and believe that these thoughts that Satan would lead you to believe are lies and have no basis in God's Word. In order to fight these thoughts, we must train our thoughts, emotions and actions to exist in the light of our new identity in Christ. We do this by studying God's Word and learning more and more about who He is so that we can reflect that same image. We call this "renewing your mind" because we are training our human mind to take on the mind of Christ.

**Why is it sometimes easier to focus on the old you rather than the new you?**

---

---

**Yield to God's leadership (Romans 6:12-13).**

A way to live out this principle is to offer up a daily prayer to the Lord before you begin your day. While it does not have to be exact, such a prayer could resemble the following:

*Lord, thank You for the new identity You have given me because of Your Son. Thank You that when You look at me, You do not see my sin, but You do see Jesus. Help me to live as though that is true. I want to offer my life to You today. I give You my thoughts, my feelings, my attitudes and my actions. Please help me as I strive to yield to Your leadership today. Help me be an example of Your love to others. Amen.*

Set a goal to pray this prayer every day for at least the next week, if not the entire month.

**Write the faith definition from memory.**

---

---

---

**What did you learn from this session?**

---

---

---

# RESOURCES

After reading this guide, you may have further questions. That's not unusual! Salvation is just the beginning; most Christians spend the rest of their lives growing in their relationship with Christ. Below are some wonderful resources that will help you navigate this journey as a Christ-follower.

## **PRESTONWOODSTUDENTS.ORG**

The Prestonwood Students website is a great resource when it comes to your walk with the Lord, the church, and other believers. With resources from salvation to baptism to devotionals, it's a one-stop shop for many of your questions and needs.

## **PRESTONWOOD STUDENTS DEVOTIONALS**

Need somewhere to begin your daily walk with Jesus? Take out your phone and text DEVO to 74788. When you do this, we will send a short devotional to your phone every morning Monday through Friday. This is just the beginning but we pray it's a launching point for you each day.

These materials have been printed by permission of Ron Proctor and Mentoring One 2 One, Inc. They include material from Mentoring 101, Books 1-3, copyright 2009-2015, Campus Crusade for Christ, Inc. and Mentoring One 2 One, Inc. All rights reserved.



PRESTONWOOD  
STUDENTS

972-820-5000  
[prestonwoodstudents.org](http://prestonwoodstudents.org)