

# STARTING POINT



CONNECTING PEOPLE TO A GROWING  
RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST



**CONNECTION**  
**CHURCH** DUBLIN

## **MISSION**

Connecting people to a growing relationship  
with Jesus.

## **VISION**

By the end of 2024, we will see Laurens County saturated with Gospel centered, life changing small group communities we call Connect Groups. We will continue to catalyze this Gospel centered small group movement by relentlessly developing small group leaders to be trained, equipped and sent into contexts that need a Gospel influence. These small group communities will all gather together for passionate corporate worship on Sunday mornings displaying the Christian unity and racial diversity we believe God wants and this community is desperate to see. We will measure effectiveness by life change in response to the Gospel (salvations, baptisms, next steps). We will see 50 groups sent and 500 people gathering together for corporate

worship on Sundays. We anticipate this movement to multiply through church planting and revolutionize church growth in middle Georgia.

## **DISCIPLESHIP PIPELINE**

**Salvation → Baptism → H&S → Connect Group → 1 on 1 Discipleship/Disciple Group/CGL Training → Multiplying Disciple → Staff → Elder → Church Planter/Missionary**

Welcome! Our purpose for this material is to equip you by providing a starting point that serves as a basic guide to begin making a disciple. The plan will take about 20 weeks, meeting with an individual once a week. Statistics show that only 2 in every 5 Christians are engaged in discipleship. We can't tell you how ecstatic we are that you have decided to take this next step. Our prayer is that you will experience God in an incredible way as you step into what he designed us all to do, which is making disciples. This material is extremely

simple, and we designed it that way. We believe discipleship is all about meeting people where they are and helping them get where God wants them to be. We want this to simply be a guide and support for you and we pray God bears much fruit through your time going through starting point.

*“to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”*

[Ephesians 4:12-13]

*“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.””*

[Matthew 28:18-20]

## **DISCIPLESHIP INTRODUCTION MEETING**

The best scenario for discipleship is with someone with whom you are acquaintances with. Leading someone you are very close with, might cause problems with transparency and pride issues may arise due to the close relationship. While this is not a requirement, starting with someone who you may not know as well will give you room to grow together in a unique way. Before meeting for the first time, pray for guidance. Depend and trust completely on the Holy Spirit's leadership in guiding this new disciple through this experience.

## 1ST MEETING FLOW

### Get Acquainted.

1. Share your Testimony (*Lead by example, be transparent, but not long winded*) and then ask them for theirs.
2. Tell me about a defining moment in your life.
3. Who are some individuals who have influenced your life & why?

### Expectations

**What are your expectations?** Here, it's crucial to share with them what your expectations are for the disciple. Help them understand how important discipleship is to you and that it is a tremendous commitment. The hope is that you both will partner together in making disciples from here on out.

Make it clear that this will require commitment from both people and that in proceeding, they are making a commitment to complete this process and to proceed to go out and make their own disciples that make more disciples etc...

### Role Clarification

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>1. Accountability</b>  | <b>6. Advice</b>                                |
| <b>2. Integrity</b>       | <b>7. Admonishment</b>                          |
| <b>3. Commitment</b>      | <b>8. Instruction in Righteous</b>              |
| <b>4. Confidentiality</b> | <b>9. Transparency</b>                          |
| <b>5. Affirmation</b>     | <b>10. Pray for Guidance by the Holy Spirit</b> |

### Discipleship Explanation

(Discipleship is what's largely missing in the local church, explain that to them)

Ask the question if anyone has ever sat down with them one on one and helped teach them to read the Bible. Talk about how strange that is since we've all been taught how to ride a bike, to play sports, etc. Many have never been taught how to read the Bible.

### Education Analogy

Going to church, hearing sermons on Sundays.

Elementary School (ABC's, a few basic lessons)

Small Groups/ Bible Study leads to next level.

High School (General knowledge)

One on One/Discipleship Group

College (In-depth; focused study)



## LET'S GET STARTED!

**1.** Would you say you are a Christian? *Let them answer.*

**2.** How do you know? *Let them answer.*

*Make the disciple think seriously about their relationship with God even to the point of making that person question it. This question shouldn't be taken lightly and too many times people really don't have a definite answer.*

**3. Have them read:**

### **Acts 11:26**

*This wasn't a compliment. They were acting and had the same characteristics as Christ, so they were called "little Christ's" or Christians. They were healing the sick, they were preaching boldly just like Christ had.*

### **Matthew 7:17-20**

*How do we recognize true believers?*

### **Galatians 5:19-26**

*Have you been bearing fruit of the Spirit in your life?*

So, based on all this, would these people look at your life and call you a Christian?

### Who is Jesus?

1. Even history reveals the facts that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, grew up in Nazareth and emerged on the scene at 30 years old to preach and teach a radically new way of life. He was crucified, buried in a borrowed tomb and 3 days later His body was gone.
2. He fulfilled over 300 Old Testament prophecies.
3. He is the risen Savior of the World.
4. Ephesians 2:1-10-This is what He did for us.

### Do you KNOW Him?

1. Knowing all the facts about Jesus will not save a person. The bible says that even the demons believe in Jesus. Is your faith in Jesus any different than a demon?  
Becoming a disciple and KNOWING Jesus personally takes a deeper relationship with

Him. The Greek word for “KNOW” implies an “intimate, loving, and caring, companionship between two people. The same word is used for two people who are married.

2. Have them read: Philippians 3:8-10  
How does hearing the definition of “Know” change this whole verse?
3. Being truly “saved” creates the desire to know God more every day. Is that something that is characteristic of your life?

### **Describe your personal relationship with God.**

1. Have them read: James 4:7-8  
Explain that a relationship with God is about submitting to God and fighting sin
2. The goal of a disciple is not to just barely make it through the gates of heaven, but to pursue God relentlessly with all our heart.
3. Have them read Ezekiel 36:26-27  
When we repent of sin and place our faith in Jesus, He changes our heart.
4. Have them read 2 Peter 1:3

Once we trust Him, He will give us everything we need for a Godly life.

**A disciple is someone who follows and takes on the characteristics of Jesus.**

We will depend on the Holy Spirit to lead us as we start next week. If we are both Christians, then the Holy Spirit surely lives in us and will guide us as we read together. Feel free to stop at any moment the Holy Spirit points something out to you and let's discuss it and apply it.

## **Meeting 1 Preparation**

### **Book 1: 1 John**

**Prep:** Watch 1 John video on YouVersion to get the background and context of the letter. (show them how to get there)

**Context:** 1 John is written to young believers in little house churches. The basic goal of the letter is to encourage them and assure them that they are in Christ and have eternal life. That's the basic hope for your first 5-6 weeks

with your disciple. Trying to get a feel for where he/she is at and how to help them be assured of their faith in Christ and what it looks like to truly be a Christian.

## Meeting 1

### **Read: 1 John 1**

**Goal:** To get a gauge on where the person is at. It's important to note and remember in our context being a Christian can mean a lot of things that aren't biblical nor true. For example: going to church, praying a prayer when you were little, doing good things, not being "too bad", none of this has anything at all to do with the Gospel and being a Christian. The heart is to press on where the person really is with Jesus and give him/her a look at what being a Christian means.

1. Where do you feel like you are with the Lord? What's your past experience?

2. Where do you want to go with your relationship with the Lord?
3. What did you learn about walking in light in this text? What does that look like in your own life?

## Meeting 2

### **Read 1 John 2**

**Goal:** I think it's important from here on out to help the person read scripture. Encourage them as they read and prepare for the meetings to look up the words they don't know in the text and really study to learn what the Scripture is saying. From here, if the person wants to come back after week 1, it's honestly all about teaching them how to be a Christian.

1. What did you learn this week in your reading? (let them talk)
2. What did you learn about obedience in the text? Reference verse: *John 14:21 Those*

*who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them.”*

3. IN your present situation, how can you be obedient to God?
4. It's evident that a new believer will love others, do you find it easy to love people?
5. Why is it so important not to fall in love with the world?
6. Why does he say to “continue” and “remain” in Him you think? What does this mean to you?

### Meeting 3

#### **1 John 3**

**Goal:** This chapter is a good opportunity to discuss what living in purity looks like. Discuss some of the things he/she struggles with

sin-wise. Talk about what living in purity looks like and why God tells us to do it. We live a life out of our knowledge of what Christ has done for us. It's impossible to know Christ, to walk with Him and continue to pursue sin. Everything changes when we come to know Christ. We don't want to sin anymore, we want to know Jesus and obey Him. The evidence of this conversion is an obedient life, the one that walks further and further away from sin and closer and closer to Jesus.

1. What did you learn this week in your reading? (let them talk)
2. Do you think it's possible to know Jesus and continue to pursue sin?
3. What's something that you see as evidence that someone is a true follower of Christ?
4. What's your next step in your relationship with the Lord?



## Meeting 4

### 1 John 4

**Goal:** This chapter really brings the reality of how opposite Jesus and the world are. Walk them through how the two are in direct contradiction of each other. Many try to walk the fence of investing in the world and Jesus at the same time and eventually you will drive yourself crazy. The main thing I'd point out in this tale of opposites, is how people that know Jesus love people. "We love, because he first loved us". This is a huge indicator of a born-again Christian.

1. Do you find it difficult to be a Christian in this world? Why do you think that is?
2. Do you believe the world and Christianity are in conflict with each other? How so?

3. Why does God call us to love people?
4. Who's the most solid Christian you know, how do they love people?

## Meeting 5

### 1 John 5

**Goal:** By this time, the person you're meeting with should really have a good self-assessment of where they are with the Lord. In this chapter John makes it clear that he wants his audience to know and have assurance of their salvation, which is what we want for the person we're meeting with.

1. How confident are you in your relationship with the Lord?
2. What's the Lord telling you to do next?
3. From reading this chapter, how can we have confidence in our relationship with God?

## Meeting 6 Preparation

### **Book: 2 Peter**

**Meeting 6 Prep:** Watch the video for 2 Peter on the Bible app

**Context:** 2 Peter deals primarily with addressing the reality of many false teachers out there to the scattered churches. He presses on the importance of what solid teaching looks like, and what false teaching looks like. This still stands today as there are many who teach falsely, out of false motives and false doctrine. It's important as we grow and disciple people that they aren't led astray by cunning teaching that isn't from God.

## Meeting 6:

### **2 Peter 1**

**Goal:** There are two key ideas to nail down with the person you're meeting with: 1. Confirmation and assurance of their salvation by adding to their faith. 2. Be firmly established in truth and refresh your memory to the truths you know. This text gives a great opportunity to share why we read scripture, meditate on scripture, and rely on scripture. It is true and trustworthy. It is absolute truth, the inspired Word of God. We need to learn it and be reminded of its truths. This is a HUGE week. Finish by talking about and pointing out that the Bible isn't something we add to the life we've made for ourselves, but we come to the Bible looking to it to change our life. We don't conform it to our life, we conform our life to the Bible.

1. How are you adding to your faith?
2. Of all the ways to add to your faith that are laid out in this chapter, which one speaks to

you most? What's your next step to begin adding this to your faith?

3. Why is reading and learning the Bible so important? How we approach the Bible changes everything about it. Do you approach the Bible as the inspired Word of God that's absolutely true and worth shaping your life to its truths? Centering your life on?
4. Would you say the Bible is something you try to add to your life? Or is it something you've let shape your life?
5. This statement will change your life: "Listen to God, do what He says".

## Meeting 7

### **2 Peter 2**

**Goal:** Last week we discussed that scripture is what we look to for truth, that it's intended to shape our lives, not added to our lives. This week we want to point out the reality that there

are false teachers out there. We let our relationship with God be shaped by the Bible and what He speaks to us, not simply what a teacher tells us. I'd encourage this person to listen to great preachers, teachers, and communicators that you know preach the Gospel and share truth. It's also important to communicate to the person you're meeting with that the Bible should shape our view of God.

1. Have you ever encountered someone that you feel was a false teacher? Why did you suspect it?
2. How can you recognize a false teacher?
3. How does reading, learning and knowing the Bible affect this topic?

## **Meeting 8**

### **2 Peter 3**

**Goal:** Peter fortunately gives us the goal in the first verse of the chapter. This letter as well as

the one we are going to start reading next week are written to stimulate people to wholesome thinking. He leads us to think about Jesus and what He's commanded us to do. It also gives an opportunity to introduce the reality of what's coming on the day of the Lord. The entire Earth will be judged, and a new heaven and earth will be set for God's people. Press on what Peter says we are to be doing:

1. Looking forward to that day.
2. Live holy and godly lives.
3. Be on guard for false teaching.

1. Why hasn't God's new kingdom come yet?
2. How often do you think about what happens after this life? Why is it important to think about it?
3. What should we do in light of eternity and the end of this world?
4. What's your next step in your relationship with the Lord?

\*\*At this point, we will encourage the person you've been meeting with to go out and begin the process with someone else. From here on you can ask him/her how their meeting went and coach them as they begin to disciple someone else.

## Meeting 9 Preparation

### **Book: 1 Peter**

**Meeting 9 Prep:** Watch 1 Peter video on YouVersion

**Context:** In 1 John we focused on assurance of salvation and confidence in a relationship with Christ. 2 Peter focused on the importance of reading scripture and knowing sound teaching and doctrine. 1 Peter will focus on what the Christian life is like. It deals a lot with suffering and how it is part of being a Christian. We will look different than the world and we will be persecuted because we are Christians. The Bible doesn't say if, it says when. This section of our study will be focused primarily on



recognizing what the Christian life feels like and why it feels that way, as well as how we are to respond to that. It's also important to talk about how God sees us and how much He loves His church.

## Week 9

### **1 Peter 1**

**Goal:** We want to point out a couple things in this text: 1. We were saved into a living hope, a hope that will not perish, spoil or fade. 2. That hope is stored in heaven, there will be trials on the way to that hope, trials in this world. 3. Those trials are allowed to prove the genuineness of our faith, and results in praise. 4. Because of this hope, live holy. We are not at home here, we are foreigners in this world. To simplify all this, basically what the Christian life looks like and why we choose to live a Christian life.

1. When you got saved did you feel a sense of hope? How would you describe the hope we have in Christ?
2. The Bible says we will experience trials here in this world. Have you ever experienced any? What's the purpose of trials, struggles and difficulties here in this world?
3. Do you think these trials will be worth it?
4. In what areas do you find yourself wanting to live like you used to before you met Jesus?
5. What would you say your next step is in living a truly Christian life? To actually look like a foreigner in a strange land? Or simply how am I called to look different than the world in a certain area of my life?

## Meeting 10

### **1 Peter 2**

**Goal:** We must see how God views the church! Jesus is the foundation. He's the cornerstone for the people of God, He's a stumbling block for those not in Christ. We are a chosen people, called out of darkness and into light. We also have a responsibility and purpose, "to proclaim Him" to the world. We are precious to God. Because of this truth, we want to magnify Him and that is why we wage war against and abstain from sin because of what God has done for us. We also want to point out more Christian living truths: 1. Submit to authorities 2. Show respect to everyone. 3. Love the brotherhood of believers 4. Fear God. Follow Christ's model, He suffered for us, He didn't retaliate.

1. How did this reading change your view of how God views the church? How He views us?

2. How should we live our lives knowing that Jesus is our cornerstone? That He called us out of darkness and into light?
3. Is it easy for you to submit to authority/leadership over your life?
4. Do you find it easy to show respect to everyone?
5. Is it easy to honor and respect others that treat you badly? Do you believe that's what sets us apart as Christians?

## Meeting 11

### **1 Peter 3**

**Goal:** Talk about the marriage relationship and what it should look like. If they are unmarried, still talk about how that relationship is designed to work. As Christian, we are supposed to live in harmony with people and be compassionate toward people because of Jesus' compassion for us. Point out that we seek peace, not strife.

We keep our tongues from speaking evil and deceit. Live such good lives that those who speak ill of you will be ashamed, they have no way to accuse you. When the time is right, be ready to give a testimony about the hope you have and why you live the way you live.

1. How would you rate your marriage? What areas do you feel the Lord wants to grow your marriage? Men, if you were your wife, would you want to follow your leadership?
2. Would you say you pursue peace in your life and not strife? Why is it important to pursue peace in every situation?
3. Think about the words you use and put them into these categories: 1. Words that tear others down or speak ill of other people or speak negatively about life in general 2. Words that are about you, what's going on in your life 3. Positive words that speak good things about people, which speak encouragement into people, and lift people

- up. 4. Words about Jesus, your relationship with Him and what He's doing in your life.
4. Where do the majority of your words fall in these categories? How can you become more of a person that uses words in categories 3 and 4.
5. Would people say that there's something different about you by the way you live and handle situations? What would you say if someone asked you why you live the way you do?

## Meeting 12

### **1 Peter 4**

**Goal:** We don't live this life to do good things and not do bad things. That's morality and religion. We live this life for God, because we surrendered it to Him. This chapter is all about living a life for God, not a life to try and not sin. Living a life to simply not sin is miserable. We live a life for God.

1. Would you say you live your life for the will of God? What comes to mind when you think about living a life for God and not for self? What gets in the way of that?
2. How is experiencing suffering almost a good thing? Like a confirmation?
3. This chapter lays out a lot of the basic truths of living a Christian life. Which one do you feel the Lord is working on you: Being clear minded? Self-controlled? Loving others? Hospitality? Serving? Speaking?

## Meeting 13

### **1 Peter 5**

**Goal:** Look and point out how elders are to conduct themselves. Leadership is so very important in God's design for the church. Many people are afraid of leaders in a church. While reverence and submission are good, church leadership is not to dictate but rather to serve as Godly examples for the church. Jesus is the

perfect model for leadership and Godly leaders are to emulate Him.

1. How important is servanthood in leadership?  
Do you find it a strain to serve others?
2. Would you say you would be characterized as humble? How important is humility in Christian leadership?
3. Who is a great leader in your life? What makes them a great leader in your eyes?
4. How much do you think about the fact that we have a real enemy who wants to destroy us, to knock us off track with God? Why is it important to be aware of that reality?

## **Meeting 14 Preparation**

### **Book 3: James**

**Meeting 14 Prep:** Watch James video on YouVersion



**Context:** James talks about Christian living, describing what we are to DO as Christians. It's a practical book that calls to action what we are to do day in and day out as Christians. It addresses what a growing, maturing Christian should be doing as we grow in the faith.

## Meeting 14

### **James 1**

**Goal:** Primarily the goal for every chapter will be to draw the practices mentioned out of the text and discuss it with the person you're discipling. There are some really important concepts to point out in this chapter including:

1. Have joy in trials
2. Ask for wisdom and persevere under trial
3. Recognize how sin begins, grows and kills
4. Be DOERS of the Word.

1. Did this chapter help give you an idea of why we have trials and how to respond to them?
2. Why is it important to ask for wisdom?
3. This chapter gives an honest look at how sin begins and develops. How can you attack sin in the early stages?
4. Are you quick to thank God for His blessings? Do you respond to God in a way that lines up with scripture, which says “every good gift is from above”?
5. Do you talk more or listen more? Which should you work on?
6. Would you say you’re growing in the area of reading God’s Word then doing it? What’s your next step to begin to live this kind of lifestyle?
7. What’s God’s heart for the poor? Do we share that same heart?

## Meeting 15

### James 2

**Goal:** Basically, talk about fundamental principles of how Christians should live and act. 1. Don't show favoritism. We should see people as God sees them. 2. Speak and act like you will be judged by the law that gives freedom. Show mercy to people, not judgement. 3. True faith works. We are saved by grace through faith alone, but true saving faith always works. The works don't save us, they're the evidence that we have been saved.

1. Is it easy for you not to judge people? Do you treat people with money differently than the poor? Why is this you think?
2. What were your thoughts on the section about faith and deeds?
3. Would you say that faith and deeds work together? Explain.

## Meeting 16

### **James 3**

Goal: Make sure the person sees that there is GREAT power in the tongue. What we say carries a lot of weight. Also, as we grow in our leadership, our words will carry even more weight. We have to be careful to guard our tongue. Also, talk about wisdom. What kind of life shows wisdom: the one that is a better listener than they are a talker.

1. How often do you think about and meditate on the words you say?
2. Do you feel the things you say are a reflection of your heart and mind?
3. Who's a wise person in your life? What makes them wise?
4. Do you desire wisdom? How can you get it?

## Meeting 17

### James 4

**Goal:** Talk about humility. How a lifestyle of humility is what God wants for us. To submit ourselves to Christ is where humility begins. The scripture: “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble” is a powerful statement. Help your disciple see how important humility is. Pride was the original sin; it is the opposite of godliness. Also point out the reality that life is very short. It is wise to use our time wisely and focus on what God is calling us to do today in this moment, not what we will be doing 10 years from now.

1. In what areas do you battle pride?
2. How well do you handle authority? In what ways is it hard to submit to Christ in all things?
3. How would you define humility?
4. Would you say you live an urgent lifestyle?

5. How would your life change if you knew the time when it would be over? What would you do?
  
6. How often have you thought about your life and eternity? How should you live this life in light of eternity?

## Meeting 18

### James 5

**Goal:** God desires us to be generous. Help the disciple see that we don't live this life like our allegiance and hope are in this life, but in the one to come. Don't hoard wealth, be generous with it. Also talk about PATIENCE. This is a tough one for people. Also talk about the power of PRAYER, that it should be a lifestyle and a discipline for the believer and the church. "The prayers of a righteous man are powerful and

effective”. Meditate and talk about this.  
PERSISTENCE: make sure your disciple knows to diligently pursue people, even when they stray.

1. In what areas do you struggle with patience?  
How do patience and faith correlate?
2. What's your prayer life like? If you believed James 5:16-17 were true, how would your prayer life change? Have you ever seen God answer your prayers? What are you praying for right now?
3. If God answered every one of your prayers next week, how many people would be added to the Kingdom?

**\*\*At the end of session 18, here are a few things to make sure of.**

1. Make sure your disciple is plugged into the local church. If they have not been through H&S, encourage them to go through to become a church member.

2. Make sure your disciple is plugged into a small group. We all need community and believe discipleship happens best in relationship.
3. Encourage your disciple to continue this discipling chain on to someone else. It is the most fruitful investment we can ever make that has eternal rewards and implications.
4. Refer to the discipleship pipeline at the beginning of the book for a reference or contact the discipleship pastor if you have any questions!



THEIR RESPONSIBILITY IS TO  
EQUIP GOD'S PEOPLE TO DO HIS  
WORK AND BUILD UP THE  
CHURCH, THE BODY OF CHRIST.

EPHESIANS 4:12

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STARTING POINT