

FOUNDATIONS

UNDERSTANDING THE
NEW TESTAMENT

LEADER GUIDE

Dear leader,

The Bible is the most amazing book ever written. However, it is daunting because it is unlike any other book. You don't read it like other books. It contains many genres, isn't always in chronological order, has tons of different authors, wasn't written all at one time, and requires a lot of contextual explanation.

No wonder students have a hard time reading it! Then again, no wonder many adults have a hard time reading it!

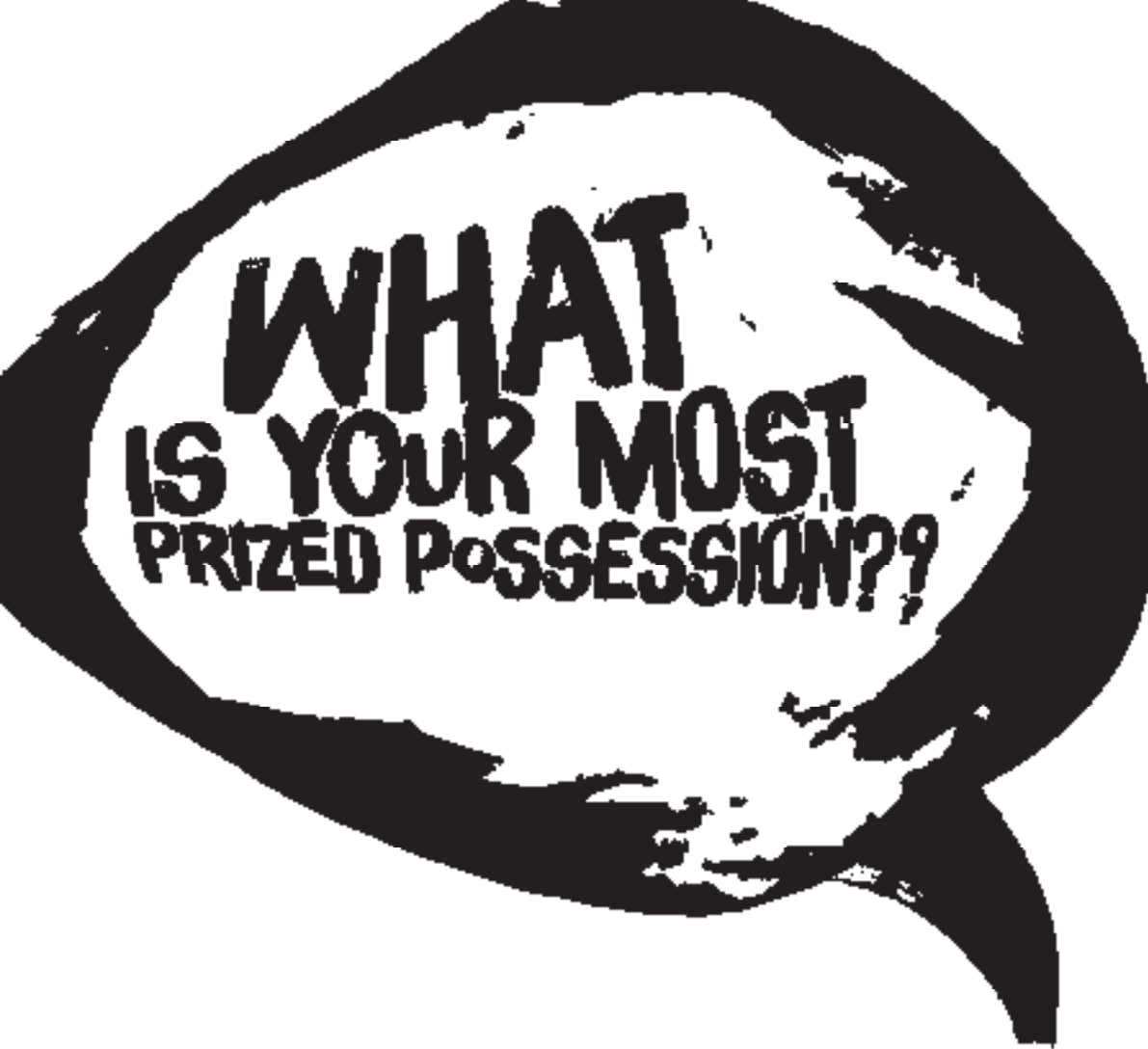
A house without a strong foundation won't last. God's Word is the only strong foundation that will withstand the storms of life. Thus, "Foundations" was born out of a desire to equip ordinary teenagers to understand the greater metanarrative of Scripture so that they would engage with it, apply it, and love it. The Bible is an amazing story from cover to cover about God's love for his children and his great glory. It's amazing that we can read this story for our entire lives and always be discovering new hidden treasures.

I pray that this is a tool to begin your students on a journey of setting their life upon that rock that has withstood the test of time. All of this is not so that students may have more head knowledge about Bible facts but that they would hear from God, know him, and make him known.

It can easily be used individually, as a part of a small group, or even for a student leadership team or mentoring relationship. It will be most effective, however, as a conversation starter. Students won't remember facts. Humans have to engage, dialogue, disagree, and question for weighty information like this to stick. As youth workers, if we want students to have life-long faith, we must create a safe place for them to doubt and discuss. I hope this booklet will aid you as you build a relationship with the student(s) you are serving to that end.

Also, "Foundations: Understanding the New Testament" is best understood when used in conjunction with "Foundations: Understanding the Old Testament." They are meant to be used together so that students have an introductory understanding of the Bible as a whole.

Blessings to you.



IPHONE?
TROPHY?
GUITAR?
BASKETBALL?
MAKE UP?

*Today,
let's listen to the Words God
wants to SPEAK to us through the Bible
and look for what God's most prized possession was.*

Let this little booklet help you begin to build a foundation of what God wants to say to you for the rest of your life about that prize. We all want to know the truth about God and about who we are.

**READ THESE
TOGETHER**



2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 (NLT)

¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. ¹⁷ God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

HEBREWS 4:12 (NLT)

¹² For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

What do these passage say about the Bible and why it's a big deal?

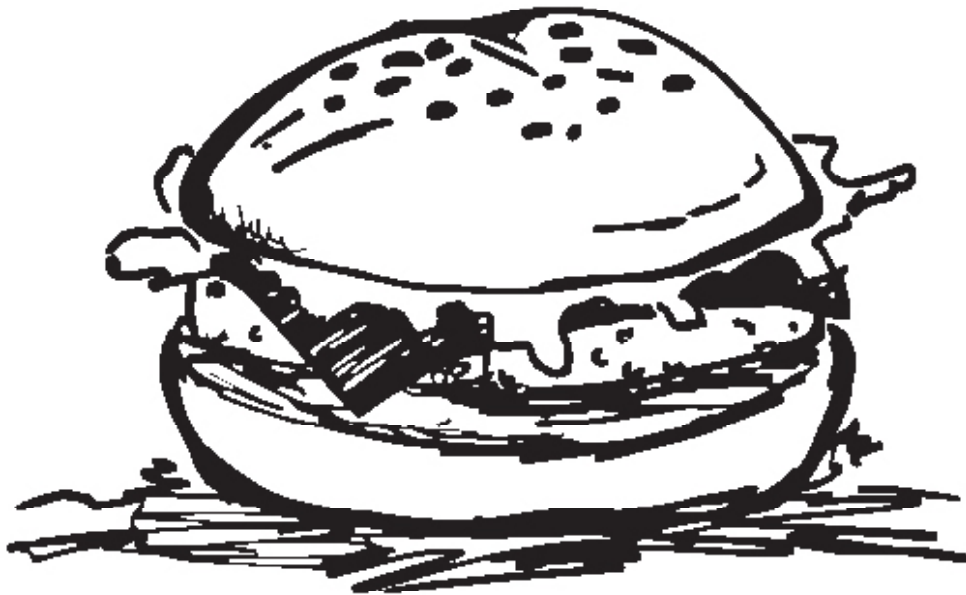
The goal here as the leader is to begin a discussion with students about what they currently think about the Bible. Don't rush in to give the "right answer," but really listen, probe, and wait to discover where they are at in their view of the Bible and why it matters.

In your life, can you think of a time that you let God's Words to you from the Bible "teach you what was right" or "made you realize what was wrong in your life?"

This is going to vary from student to student. Really try to help them be vulnerable and not give an easy answer. Feel free to be real about your own story and how God's wisdom guides you when you mess up.

Now, can you share a time that you felt God speaking to you about your "innermost thoughts and desires?" Maybe you didn't even know it was God and just thought it was your "conscience" or maybe just something you ate...

Again, this is going to be a personal answer. Help students to understand what you're getting at here. How has God convicted them when their thinking or their goals were out of line with what God would want for them? Students may have never experienced this type of conviction from the Holy Spirit because they haven't had much experience spending time with him and his Word. Encourage them that this is the main purpose of this study together--so that they can know God and experience him speaking into their lives.



LET'S SET SOME THINGS UP TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NEW TESTAMENT:

1. What is the main message of the Bible? What is the main message of the New Testament?

If you have already gone through “Foundations of the Old Testament” this will be review. Again, don’t rush in with the right answer. The goal here is for students to discover this beautiful truth that:

THE CREATOR GOD IS GLORIOUS AND DESIRES TO BE IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH US!

2. We talked about the Old Testament previously. Since it’s old, should I just stick to the New Testament? Isn’t the Old one outdated?

See what students say here. The Old and New Testaments are definitely different but that doesn’t mean one is more important than the other. The Old Testament sets up Jesus’ coming with hundreds of prophecies and a lot of backstory that makes Jesus’ arrival in the New Testament thrilling and full of depth. For example, if you haven’t read about the animal sacrifices at the Tabernacle in the Old Testament, hearing that Jesus is the “Lamb of God” in the New Testament doesn’t mean as much!

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