



FIRST STEPS WITH JESUS

A Formational Journey of Following Jesus

LEADER'S MANUAL

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LEADER'S MANUAL — PASTORAL ACCOMPANIMENT GUIDE

Purpose of This Manual

This manual equips leaders to pastor new believers, not simply to teach lessons. The goal is formation, not information—creating a space where Scripture, the Holy Spirit, and obedience shape life over time.

How to Use This Manual

A Guide for Accompanying New Believers

First Steps is a formative process, not a classroom curriculum. Each session is designed to help participants encounter the Word, listen to the Holy Spirit, and respond in obedience over time.

This manual exists to help you pastor people, not just deliver content.

Your Role as a Leader

You are not a lecturer—you are a spiritual guide. Your role is to:

- Create a safe and welcoming environment
- Keep the group centered on Scripture
- Allow participants to discover truth before explaining it
- Pastor hearts, questions, and resistance with sensitivity
- Lead prayer and ministry attentively to the Holy Spirit

The Weekly Rhythm

Each session follows the same flow:

1. *Welcome and Prayer*

- Establish an atmosphere of peace and expectation. Invite the Holy Spirit to lead.

2. *Scripture Reading*

- Read the assigned passages slowly and clearly. Avoid explaining—let the Word speak first.

3. *Discovery Bible Study (DBS)*

- Ask the questions exactly as written.
- Let participants respond in their own words
- Avoid correcting or teaching while someone is speaking
- Encourage listening and mutual respect

4. *Teaching*

- After discovery, present the Teaching section.
- Clarify and pastor gently
- Keep Scripture at the center
- Teach descriptively, without rushing

5. *Ministry Time*

- End with prayer, response, or action.
- Make space for silence and reflection
- Invite, never force
- Trust the work of the Holy Spirit

Important Leadership Guidelines

- Do not rush transformation—growth takes time
 - Affirm before correcting
 - Celebrate obedience, even when it is small
 - Avoid pressure, especially in areas like baptism, giving, or spiritual experiences
 - Let the Holy Spirit lead—this manual is a guide, not a script
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Group Size and Context

Ideal for:

- Small groups: maximum two students (families can be treated as one unit)
 - One-on-one discipleship
 - Micro-churches / church plants
 - Processes for new believers or membership
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Final Encouragement for Leaders

Disciples are formed through truth, time, and tenderness. Teach faithfully and love deeply. Trust that God will complete the work He has begun in each person.

WEEK 1 — NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

Key Scriptures

- *2 Corinthians 5:17 & Romans 8:15–16*

DBS Questions

1. What stands out to you about what God has done for you in these verses?
2. How does knowing you are a child of God affect your life this week?
3. How does this truth change your life?

Teaching

- Scripture declares that anyone in Christ is a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). Salvation is not behavior modification, but spiritual re-creation. The past no longer defines the believer. God initiates a new life, a new direction, and a new purpose through Christ.
- Romans 8 teaches that this new life includes a new relationship with God. Believers receive the Spirit of adoption, not fear. They are no longer strangers seeking approval, but sons and daughters who belong to God and can cry out: “Abba, Father!”
- Security rests on God’s promise and the testimony of the Spirit, not on emotions or performance. Because the Holy Spirit confirms we are God’s children, obedience flows from love and spiritual growth is born from grace.

Ministry Time

Prayer of assurance and thanksgiving.

WEEK 2 — THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS

Key Scriptures

- *Luke 9:23 & Proverbs 3:5–6*

DBS Questions

1. What do these verses teach about following Jesus?
2. In what area is God inviting you to trust Him more this week?

Teaching

- Jesus defines discipleship as daily surrender—denying oneself, taking up the cross, and following Him (Luke 9:23). Following Jesus is not a one-time decision, but a daily posture of submission to His leadership.
- Proverbs 3 calls believers to trust in the Lord with all their heart and not lean on their own understanding. As they submit their ways to God, He promises to direct their paths with wisdom and care.
- Lordship transforms everyday decisions. Over time, believers learn to ask not only: “What do I want?” but: “What honors Jesus?” This transformation happens gradually, as the Holy Spirit gently invites deeper obedience.

Ministry Time

Prayer of surrender and trust.

WEEK 3 — WATER BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

Key Scriptures

- *Romans 6:3–4 & 1 Corinthians 11:23–26*

DBS Questions

1. What do these verses show about entering new life in Christ and remembering His sacrifice?
2. How do baptism and the Lord's Supper shape the way we live as disciples?

Teaching

- Romans 6 teaches that believers are baptized into Christ's death and raised to walk in new life. Water baptism publicly identifies the believer with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, marking a decisive break with the past.
- Baptism does not save, but it powerfully declares what God has already done by grace. Coming out of the water symbolizes resurrection life—a new identity and direction rooted in Christ.
- The Lord's Supper continually calls believers to remember Christ's sacrifice and proclaim His death until He comes (1 Corinthians 11). Baptism marks the beginning of the journey; communion sustains the believer in grace, unity, and dependence on Christ.

Ministry Time

Prayer of consecration and gratitude.

WEEK 4 — LIFE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

Key Scriptures

- *Acts 1:8 & John 14:16–17*

DBS Questions

1. What stands out to you about the role of the Holy Spirit?
2. In what area do you need the Spirit's help this week?

Teaching

- Jesus promised the Holy Spirit as a Helper who would dwell with and within believers (John 14). God never intended for us to live by our own strength. The Spirit ensures God's presence and guidance.
- Acts 1:8 reveals that the Holy Spirit empowers believers to be witnesses. This power equips you for faithful living and bold testimony, actively participating in God's mission.
- Living led by the Spirit is learned over time. Through Scripture, prayer, and community, believers grow in discernment, character, and obedience as the Spirit shapes their lives.

Ministry Time

Prayer for filling and renewal.

WEEK 5 — THE WORD AND PRAYER

Key Scriptures

- *Acts 2:42 & Psalm 119:105*

DBS Questions

1. What do these verses teach about how God guides His people?
2. How can Scripture and prayer shape daily life?

Teaching

- Acts 2 shows how the early church devoted themselves to daily disciplines of the Word and prayer, establishing a consistent spiritual rhythm. God's Word continues to guide and ground believers in truth.
- Psalm 119 describes Scripture as a lamp and light, illuminating the path and providing direction for daily decisions. As believers approach the Word each day, their lives are shaped by divine wisdom.
- Prayer is a daily, sincere response to God's voice. Together, the Word and prayer form a spiritual cycle that sustains growth, deepens trust, and guides obedience.

Ministry Time

Guided prayer using Scripture.

WEEK 6 — BELONGING, HOLINESS, AND MISSION

Key Scriptures

- *Acts 2:42–47 & 1 Peter 2:9–10*

DBS Questions

1. What do these passages show about who God's people are and how they should live together?
2. How does your identity in Christ influence how you live, serve, and witness this week?

Teaching

- Acts 2 presents a living community marked by shared life, sincere prayer, generosity, and mutual care. Belonging creates the context where faith flourishes—connection precedes action.
- Peter reminds believers that they are a chosen people, called out of darkness into God's marvelous light. True holiness flows from identity in Christ and Spirit-led transformation, not performance.
- Because they belong to God, believers boldly proclaim His excellencies. Mission flows naturally from identity and is expressed in everyday life.

Ministry Time

Prayer of commitment to community and boldness in witness.

WEEK 7 — OVERCOMING TEMPTATION AND WALKING IN FORGIVENESS

Key Scriptures

- *1 Corinthians 10:13 & Ephesians 4:32*

DBS Questions

1. What does this verse teach us about God and about temptation?
2. What do these verses teach us about God's heart, and what do they teach us about how to treat others?

Teaching

- Paul teaches that temptation is universal and not unbearable. You are not alone in what you face—others have gone through the same and have overcome. This gives you hope (it breaks the lie: "No one understands my struggle").
- God is faithful and not indifferent to your trial. He does not observe passively—He is involved, setting limits on what you face and always providing a "way out." That way can take different forms; for example: a door, a decision, a concrete action on your part—fleeing, resisting, seeking help, changing your environment, etc.
- Forgiveness must be a lifestyle for the believer in Jesus. It should not be optional or occasional—it is a continual decision, even when it hurts.
- The greatest model of a life of forgiveness is our Lord Jesus Christ. We forgive because we have been forgiven—not from human merit, but from the grace we have received from Jesus.

Ministry Moment

A prayer for protection in the midst of trial and for trust in God's faithfulness during it. Cry out for the ability to embrace a lifestyle of forgiveness and ask the Lord for help when it becomes difficult to forgive.

A FINAL WORD FOR LEADERS

Remember that disciples are formed by God, not by pressure or perfection. Your calling is to walk faithfully with people, create space for the Word and the Spirit, and trust God with the results. Small steps of obedience matter more than visible results.

Lead from intimacy with Christ, not from activity. Remain rooted in prayer, the Word, and community. By modeling a life of trust and surrender, others will learn to follow Jesus in the same way.

The God who is forming disciples through your leadership is also forming you. Trust Him with the work—and with your own heart.

