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My New Life

Six Foundational Topics for Discipling a New Christian

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Someone you know and love has given their life over to Jesus. This is what you've been praying for all this time, and it's finally happening. They are now a Christian! You've longed for this opportunity to walk alongside them in their newfound faith, pointing them to the truths of God's Word. Or, maybe you haven't personally known this sibling in Christ long, but you've excitedly offered to disciple them. But, now what? What is next? What should you teach them first? Where in Scripture do you begin? At what pace should you go? This feels like a lot of pressure—them being new to this and you being the “expert” now, right?

In the same way that we can't expect a new Christian to know everything (or anything), it's also an unrealistic expectation for a disciple to feel fully prepared to jump into a discipling relationship. But, there's hope and help. Here are some foundational topics to cover with your new Christian friend(s). This list isn't exhaustive, but it's a great start for a new believer, especially one who may not have much history in the church or experience in God's Word. Sure, there are incredibly important theological truths that are not covered here (and they'll need to be sooner than later), but for starters, let's be sure to lay this foundation for them as they begin this journey of faith. Here are six foundational topics to focus on when discipling a new believer:

1

Grasping New Life in Christ

(2 CORINTHIANS 5:17)

When someone becomes a follower of Jesus, He makes everything in their life new. Since they now believe in Jesus, they are different and their life will begin to look different. Fortunately, the Bible helps us know how to become a Christian, and it also gives us guidance about how to embrace this new life.

Focus here on things like:

- Being saved by grace
- Studying, remaining in, and obeying His Word
- Living in Christian community
- Having confidence in our eternity with Jesus

2

Understanding the Gospel

(1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-4)

Jesus died for our sins so that we can be forgiven and live in relationship with God now and for eternity. Focus here on gospel truths such as:

- There is one true God.
- All people are sinners and have rejected God.
- Jesus died in our place and paid the penalty of our sin.
- Jesus is the only way to God.
- We respond to Christ by faith.

3

Knowing God

(PSALM 103:8-11)

There is only one God, the good and loving Creator of all things, who exists as three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Focus here on these truths of God:

- God is eternal.
- God is the Creator of all things.
- God is a good and loving heavenly Father toward His children.
- Jesus is the eternal Son of God who reveals to us what the Father is like.
- The Holy Spirit is sent by the Father and Son to live in Christians to be our helper.

4

Following Jesus

(GALATIANS 2:20)

Christians are called to die to their former way of life and to live by faith in Christ. Focus here on these truths of Jesus:

- At its core, the Christian life is choosing to follow Jesus daily.
- We grow spiritually when we remain connected to Jesus.
- We commit to daily growth and training in godliness through spiritual disciplines.
- Our hearts are prone to wander toward sin, but God is faithful to give us a way out of temptation.
- We must learn to stand against the schemes of the enemy.

5

Connecting to God's Family

(ROMANS 12:4-5)

The church is God's people gathered and sent on God's mission. It is vital for the Christian to be connected to a family of believers. Focus here on these truths of God's family:

- The church is a community where members relate to one another as God's family.
- The church expresses adoration and devotion to God in worship.
- The church's teaching builds up followers of Christ.
- Every Christ-follower receives spiritual gifts that we are to use to serve one another.
- Believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper have important roles in Christian life.

6

Joining God on Mission

(MATTHEW 28:19-20)

God's will for Christians is that we glorify God and make Him known to the world. Focus here on these truths of missional living:

- We are called to live our lives on mission with the good news of Jesus.
- We are commanded to share the gospel so that all may hear the good news of Jesus.
- We respond to God's goodness by giving.
- We must offer our lives to God in all that we do.
- We are set apart for God's purposes.

The great thing is, even though this list might feel overwhelming, God is going to give you the words to speak, the confidence to speak them, and the patience you need as you walk this newfound journey of faith with people. Allow the burden to be taken off your shoulders and let yourself be used by the Spirit to help nurture this “baby” in Christ. Your job isn’t to make sure they know Scripture backward and forward in these first few months.

Your job is to faithfully point them to Jesus so that they learn to be nourished by and fully satisfied in Him for the rest of their lives.

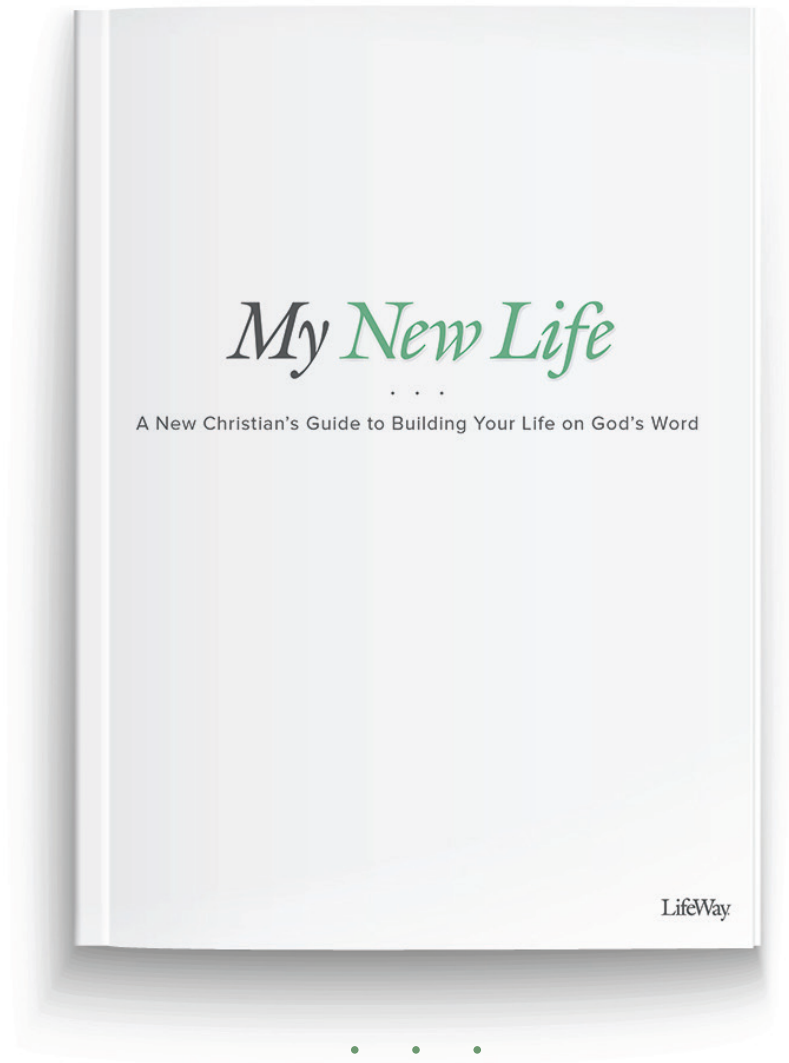
For nearly a decade, my friend and co-worker would give me a pep talk before each time I shared God’s Word with a group of people. Whether it was a sermon, a funeral, a wedding, or a youth group, his simple three-word message to me was always the same: “Give ‘em Jesus.” This was so freeing for me to always hear. God will do the heart work; our job is to point them to Him. So, let me encourage you: Give ‘em Jesus! Your job as a discipler is to bring them to full dependence on Jesus. It’s easy for a new Christian to become increasingly dependent on and trusting in the person who is walking alongside them—oftentimes, too much. Be sure that the people you disciple will be just fine without you and that they are finding all they need in Christ alone.

Being given the foundational outline on the previous pages is great, but understand that it requires a lot of work if you continue to do all this research, put together specific Scriptures for each time together, and know those texts and topics well enough to be able to teach them to a new Christian. This is why we've created the resource *My New Life*. Not only is this resource one that a new Christian can walk through on their own without feeling overwhelmed, but it is also a great guide for a discipler to use as they walk this journey with those who are new in the faith. If you or someone you know is discipling a new Christian and you desire that they receive the foundational truths that a new Christian needs, *My New Life* is a resource you want in your hands and in the hands of those who are starting this new journey of trusting Jesus! To find out more and get a copy, simply click here: [*My New Life*](#)

We are incredibly thankful for you and your willingness to point people to Jesus. This journey of faith alongside others is awesome, but it can also be messy, overwhelming, and just plain hard. We love your kingdom mindset and desire to see new Christians thrive and grow as they learn to depend on Jesus. We are praying for you as you faithfully serve God's people!

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The new Christian can become easily overwhelmed trying to figure out how to be a Christ-follower. For the believer to grow, it's necessary to have an understanding of God's Word, God's character, prayer, the gospel, and so much more. This study explains these deep biblical truths in short and simple to understand chapters. It will help a new believer grow in knowledge of God's Word and provide a foundation on which daily trust in Jesus will grow for the rest of their lives.

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