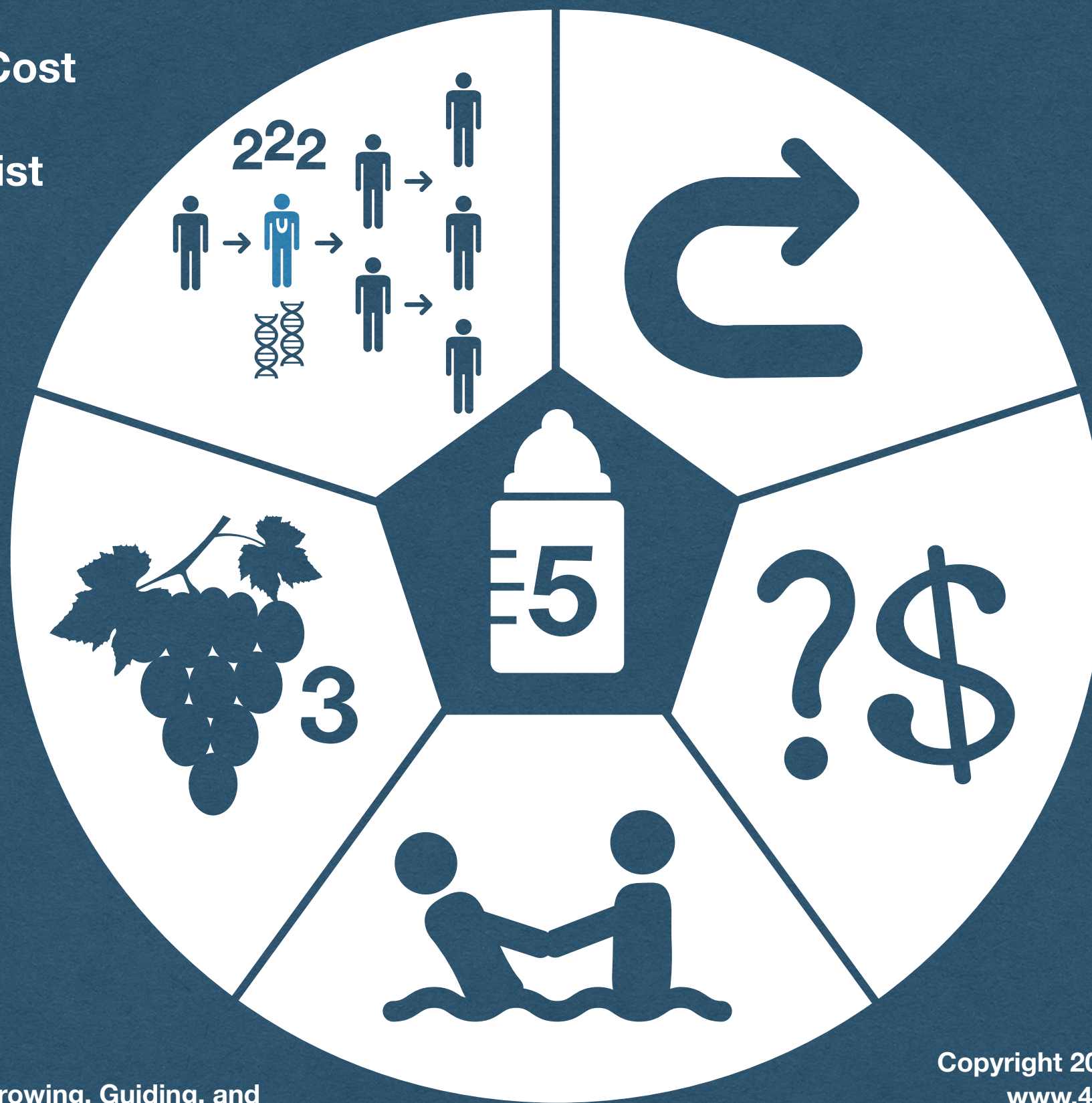




Initial Discipleship (Milk)



- Repentance
- Counting the Cost
- Baptism
- Abiding in Christ
- Multiplication

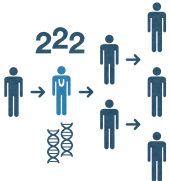


Foreword

This document has been designed for use with small groups using cell-phones, tablets, computers, TV connections, or projectors. This document is not designed as a printed book (though it may be printed) or large group presentation but rather an electronic discussion guide for small or medium sized multi-language groups. The graphics on each page are designed to ease cross-cultural communication issues when using a translator or with group members using a second language. We hope that this document helps facilitate discussions about the Gospel of Jesus Christ in both formal and informal discussion groups in homes, churches, and coffee shops around the world. The copyright on this document allows you to freely distribute and even modify the content to meet your needs.

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Repentance



Repentance = a change of
heart, mind, and action

“Repentance is a heartfelt sorrow for sin, a renouncing of it, and a sincere commitment to forsake it and walk in obedience to Christ.” - Wayne Grudem

read

Luke 19:1-10



Key Idea: Repentance, or turning away from sin, is an essential part of salvation.

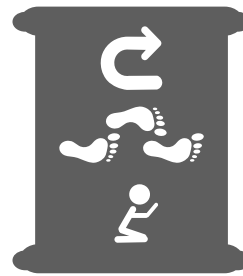


Topical Study: What Is Repentance?

Repentance:

- Is turning from sin to obedience to God (Acts 26:20)
- Is something God does in us (Acts 11:18)
- Involves a change of heart (Jeremiah 24:7)
- Is essential for true salvation (Galatians 5:19-21)
- Results in a changed life (Luke 3:10-14)
- Involves repairing past wrongs (Luke 19:8)
- Involves leaving behind old ways of life (Acts 19:18-19)

Learning Tool: **Practical Repentance List**



List things that you need to give up (sin in your life):

- Watching bad movies**
- Lying**
- Gossiping**
- Etc.**

What practical steps will you take to leave these things behind?

- Throw away bad movies I own**
- Ask a friend to hold me accountable for telling the truth and gossiping**
- Etc.**

Pray that God would help you to leave these sins behind.



Counting the Cost



“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose. ” - Jim Elliot

read

Luke 14:25-35



Key Idea: Following Jesus means being prepared to give up everything for him.



Topical Study:

The Cost of Following Jesus

Following Christ means:

- **Putting God's interest before your own (Matthew 6:33)**
- **Abandoning old and sinful habits (Colossians 3:5-10)**
- **Being laughed at as foolish (Acts 17:32)**
- **Giving up personal vengeance (Luke 6:27-28)**
- **Giving up destructive relationships (1 Corinthians 15:33)**
- **Possible financial loss (Matthew 19:21)**
- **Possible rejection by family (1 Corinthians 7:13-15, Matthew 10:35-37)**
- **Possible beatings, imprisonment, or death (Acts 7:54-60, 16:19-24)**
- **The eternal rewards outweigh earthly suffering (Matthew 5:10-12)**

⊗ Learning Tool: Counting the Cost List

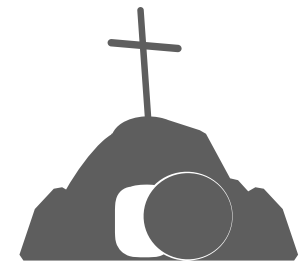
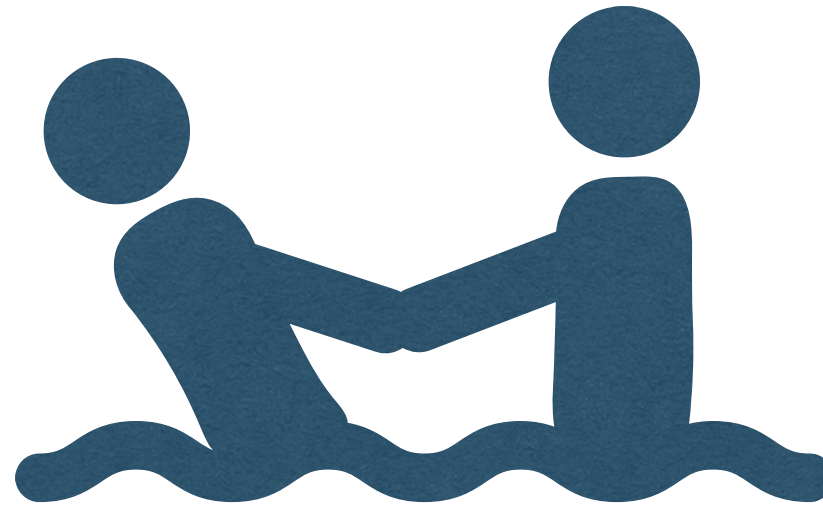


List the things you think you might personally face if you decide to follow Jesus. What will it cost you? Are you ready to face these problems?



Lesson: Baptism

“Baptism is an outward sign of an inward change.” - Anonymous



Identifying With
The Death, Burial, and
Resurrection of Christ

read

Acts 16:25-40



Key Idea: Baptism is a believer's public act of identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus and with other believers.

Topical Study: **What Is Baptism?**

- **A response to repentance (Acts 2:38-41)**
- **Symbolic and not a work that brings salvation (Luke 23:42)**
- **A public symbol of identifying with Christ in death and rising to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4)**
- **A symbol of our sins being washed away (Acts 22:16)**
- **The first step of obedience for a believer (Acts 16:31-33)**
- **Only for believers (Mark 16:16)**
- **Part of making disciples in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19)**



Learning Tool: Baptismal Service

Discuss

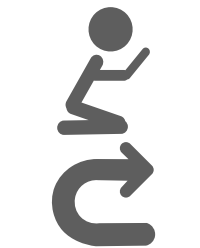
To become a Disciple of Jesus you must:



- Believe that Jesus, the Son of God, came, died for your sins, rose from the dead, went away and is coming back. (John 20:31, Romans 10:9)



- Admit that you are a sinner and that you deserve death and Hell according to the Law. (Romans 3:23, 6:23)



- Confess your sins in prayer and ask God to forgive you. (1 John 1:9)



- Turn away from your sins. (Acts 3:19, Luke 13:3, Galatians 5:19-24)



- Follow Jesus as your Savior and King wherever he may lead. (Matthew 16:24-26)



- Be baptized as a public step of faith in identifying with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. (Acts 2:38)



- Participate in lifelong, transformational discipleship through studying and obeying God's Word. (Matthew 28:18-20)

Are you ready to publicly profess your faith in Jesus through baptism?

Time, Location, and Attendance

In the New Testament baptism was often done the same day a person believed. Some churches practice immediate baptism while others like to prepare for the service in advance. The location can be in the baptistry of a church, a local or private swimming pool, a bathtub, a lake, river, or the beach. This may be a very public service if there are no security concerns or it may be done in a private place if there are dangers associated with baptism in your area. Depending on the time, location, and security concerns you may want to invite family and friends to attend.

Who Will Perform the Baptism?

Baptism takes place under the authority of the local church. The person who leads someone to Christ is usually the best person to perform the actual baptism as long as local church leadership approve. Or people may work as a team with several people baptizing each person. In conservative cultures it may be best to have a woman or a man and woman team baptizing other women. Some churches only allow pastors to baptize. Although this is not a biblical requirement it is good to be respectful of local culture and wishes of leaders for the sake of the unity of the Church.

Clothing and Towel

The person should wear normal but respectful clothing. Some clothes, especially white shirts, become see-through when wet so it is best for women to wear clothes that guard their modesty when wet. Towels may be provided or participants may need to bring their own towel.

Baptism Preparation

Before the service, demonstrate the motions and words of baptism so that the person knows what to expect.

Testimony (3-5 Minutes)

If there is time, you may have people prepare a short 3-5 minute testimony explaining what their life was like before Christ, how they came to believe in Christ, and how Jesus is now beginning to change their life. They may want to include problems faced, solutions found in Christ, and specific sin issues that Jesus is helping them overcome. Stress the need to keep this short!

Private and Public Baptism Interview:

***Ask these questions in private first to make sure people are really ready for baptism. Then ask these questions at the public service of the entire group being baptized.**

- Do you believe that you are guilty of sin and unable to save yourself from God's just punishment?**
- Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that he has authority and power to forgive your sins, give you eternal life, and transform your daily life?**
- Do you believe that Jesus came, died for your sins, rose again, went away, and is coming back to judge the world?**

- **Have you embraced Jesus as your Savior and King?**
- **Are you willing to turn away from your old life of sin and give up everything to follow Jesus no matter the cost?**
- **Are you willing to publicly be identified with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus and with his Bride, the Church, through baptism?**
- **Are you willing to join and participate in the Bride of Christ, the Church; be disciplined; and participate in the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations?**

Baptism

Go down into the water about waist deep. Have the person cross their hands over their chest and hold their nose with their right hand. The person baptizing them stands to one side and places one hand on the persons arm and one hand on their back. The person baptizing them says, “John, have you embraced Jesus Christ as your Savior and King?” The person answers “Yes.” The person baptizing them responds, “Then I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Buried with Christ in baptism (lean them back under the water) and raised to walk in newness of life (bring them up out of the water).”



Abiding in Christ



read

John 15:1-17



Key Idea: We abide in Christ by spending time in prayer, in God's Word, and by obeying what we hear through prayer and the Word.



Topical Study:

How Do We Abide in Christ?

- **Spending time in God's Word (John 8:31-32, 15:7)**
- **Praying through the Spirit (John 15:7, Ephesians 6:18)**
- **Obedying his commands (John 15:10)**
- **Walking as Jesus walked (1 John 2:3-6)**
- **Bearing Fruit (John 15:2-6)**

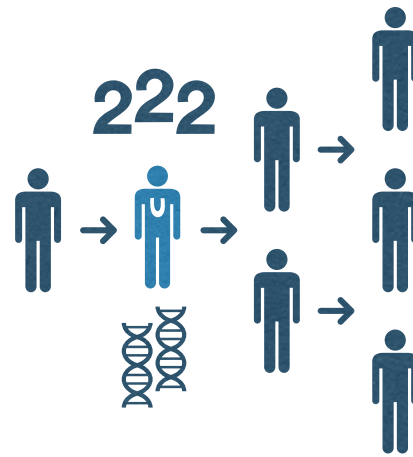
🔧 Learning Tool: 3 Ways We Abide in Christ

Memorize



We abide in Christ through Prayer, the Word, and through Obedience.

Multiplication



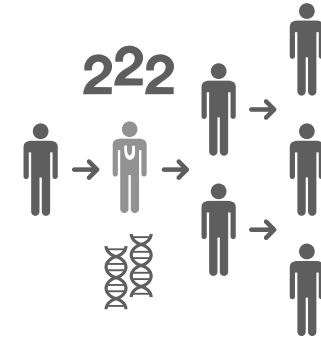
“Set good DNA for future believers by diligently seeking discipleship yourself and passing on what you learn to others!” - Anonymous read

Acts 10:1-48

 **Key Idea:** Followers of Christ multiply themselves by reaching out to family, friends, and acquaintances with the Gospel and discipling new believers just as they themselves were disciplined.



Topical Study: The 222 Principle



- **Pass on what you learn to others (2 Timothy 2:2)**
- **The Bible is our source of faith and practice, not tradition or other religious material (2 Timothy 3:14-16, Mark 7:6-8)**
- **Authority for making disciples comes from Jesus (Matthew 28:18)**
- **Go and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19)**
- **Teach new disciples to obey “everything” Jesus commanded (Matthew 28:20)**
- **God has already promised a harvest from every tribe, tongue, and nation (Revelations 9:7)**

 Learning Tool:

Family, Friends, and Acquaintances List

5 Family 	5 Friends 	5 Acquaintances 
My Wife (Sarah)	Jim (best friend)	Jack (from work)
My Son (John)	Sam (next door neighbor)	Jenny (Jack's wife)
My Father (Henry)	Bob (tennis partner)	Tom (neighbor)
Uncle Joe	Susan (Bob's wife)	Larry (my mechanic)
Aunt Betsy	James (high school friend)	Tim (my barber)

List 5 lost family, friends, and acquaintances. Pray for God to help you to share Creation to Christ with at least one person from your list each week starting this week.

Suggested Lesson Order

Seeker's Class (7 lessons total)

01 - Creation to Christ (C2C) (1 lesson)

02 - The Six Sacrifice Stories (6 lessons)

Believer's Group (25 lessons total)

03 - Initial Discipleship - Milk (5 lessons)

04 - Basic Discipleship - Meat (20 lessons)

Christian Worldview (2 lessons)

05 - Bird's Eye View of the Bible (1 lesson)

06 - Bird's Eye View of Church History (1 lesson)

Book Studies (4-5 years) - no material but uses 3/3rds format

- James (character development)
- Titus (group development)
- Luke (or one of the other four Gospels (understanding the Gospel))
- Acts (understanding the early church and group multiplication)
- Genesis (theological foundations)
- Exodus (theological foundations)
- Joshua (theological foundations)
- Judges (theological foundations)

