



Next Steps for Discipling a New Believer

A guide for pastors and church leaders following salvation and baptism

This guide is designed to help a church leader intentionally disciple a new believer in the critical early weeks after salvation and baptism. The goal is **establishing assurance, habits, community, and obedience**, not information overload.

Aim: Help the new believer learn how to follow Jesus, not just what to believe.

1. Establish Assurance of Salvation (Week 1)

Objective: Ground the believer in confidence in Christ's finished work.

Leader Actions:

- Clearly explain salvation by grace through faith
- Emphasize security in Christ, not performance
- Invite questions about doubts or fears

Key Truths to Reinforce:

- Salvation is God's work
- Baptism is a public declaration, not salvation itself
- Doubt is common; assurance grows through truth

Helpful Scriptures: Romans 8:1; Ephesians 2:8-9; 1 John 5:11-13

2. Teach the Basics of Walking with God (Weeks 1-2)

Objective: Help the believer develop foundational spiritual habits.

Leader Actions:

- Demonstrate how to read the Bible (**start with the Gospel of John**)
- Model simple, honest prayer
- Encourage daily consistency over perfection

Focus Questions to Teach:

- What does this passage tell me about God?
- How should I respond?

3. Connect Them to Biblical Community (Weeks 2-3)

Objective: Ensure the believer is rooted in the local church.

Leader Actions:

- Introduce them to a small group or class
- Help them build relationships beyond Sunday services
- Encourage regular worship attendance

Key Principle: Growth accelerates in healthy community.

4. Teach Repentance, Obedience, and Grace (Weeks 3-4)

Objective: Establish a healthy understanding of sanctification.

Leader Actions:

- Normalize ongoing repentance
- Address sin with truth and grace
- Teach obedience as a response to love, not fear

Helpful Scriptures: [John 14:15](#); [1 John 1:7-9](#); [Galatians 5:16](#)

5. Clarify Identity and the Work of the Holy Spirit (Weeks 4-5)

Objective: Help the believer understand who they are in Christ.

Leader Actions:

- Teach their new identity as a child of God
- Explain the role of the Holy Spirit in growth
- Encourage dependence on God, not self-effort

6. Introduce Serving and Witness (Weeks 5-6)

Objective: Move the believer from consumer to contributor.

Leader Actions:

- Help them identify simple ways to serve
- Encourage sharing their testimony naturally
- Reinforce that obedience strengthens faith

Reminder: They don't need all the answers, only a faithful story.

7. Prepare Them for Ongoing Growth and Struggles

Objective: Set realistic expectations for the Christian life.

Leader Actions:

- Warn against isolation and spiritual complacency
- Encourage seeking help during struggles
- Point them toward long-term discipleship pathways

Leader Commitments Checklist

- Pray regularly for this believer
- Meet consistently (formal or informal)
- Model humility and obedience
- Connect them to the church body
- Encourage multiplication over dependence

Final Encouragement for Leaders

Discipleship is relational, intentional, and patient. The early days matter deeply. What you model now will shape how this believer follows Christ for years to come.

“And what you have heard from me... entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.” (2 Timothy 2:2)

Leader Name: _____

New Believer: _____

Date Baptized: _____