

## Winning Souls to Christ Workshop: Introductory lesson

What's the purpose of this course/workshop? Turn over to **John 1:35-42**. The purpose is to bring people to Jesus. Andrew spent time with Jesus and then the first thing he did was to go find his brother and bring him to Jesus. Now there are many ways to do this: some people have just read through the book of John with people, others have read through the book of Romans, some folks learned to come to Jesus through a series of sermons, others (like myself) were converted using a study series. But even if we didn't do this series, you already have five tools that could help you convert someone: What are those five things? The Bible, Prayer, The Holy Spirit, Your life, Creation.

I'm going to walk you through 8 sessions: today's introductory session and then 7 studies and here's why: **Turn to Hebrews 5:11 – 6:3**. There are basic principles or elementary teachings about Christ. You see: does a person need to have the entire Bible memorized or read to become a Christian? Do they need to know Greek and Hebrew? NO! In order to become a disciple of Jesus, however, they do need to learn the basic principles and elementary teachings: faith, repentance, baptism, etc. That's what our study series is, elementary teachings and basic principles. To have goal posts.

Look over in **Ephesians 4:3-6** (this is going to be your memory verse), each session we'll have a memory verse. Paul says that we need to make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit. In John 17, one of Jesus's last prayers was that we would be unified. There are lots of things that we don't necessarily have to be unified on ("disputable matters"), but these 7 are essentials: One Spirit, one body (church), one hope, one faith, one Lord (Jesus), one baptism (immersion in water in the name of Jesus), one God.

Now, the goal is not just head knowledge. We aren't here to create theologians. We aren't here just to create church members or to add to our life groups. Look at **John 4:1-3**, during his time here on earth, Jesus (and his disciples) were making and baptizing disciples. Our goal is to make disciples and then baptize them. It's not just pew-sitters, or church attenders. We are here to make disciples. Look at **Matthew 28:18-20**. Jesus did this and showed his followers how to do it, and then when he ascended to Heaven, he commanded them to keep doing it, but now to include ALL nations (Jews, Samaritans, and Gentiles). This was not just for the apostles, or the evangelist(s) of the church. Every disciple needs to be a disciple maker. (Write down Acts 8:1-4, Acts 11:19-21) We make disciples, baptize them, then teach them to obey (start off with milk, then go to solid food). So, with this series you want people to learn (have head knowledge), but also to change their lives, to be granted repentance. It's not a factory where you do 7 studies and then out pops a disciple. Each study has a challenge with it. Disciples of Jesus are those who believe in him AND follow him.

Read the following: **1 Thessalonians 2:8**. This is so important. It should not be that you have only gotten together with someone to study the Bible, and never spent time with them outside of that. There should be social time, hang out time, they should have had a meal in your home or vice-versa. They should see that not only do you talk the talk, but you walk the walk. Jesus wasn't always just preaching in the synagogues or in the temple. His disciples were followers in the truest sense of the word. They left everything behind to follow him.

Here are the Core Studies that we'll be learning to lead followed by some resources to read:

<https://www.cornerstoneduluth.org/core-studies/>

Some resources to read:

Muscle and a Shovel by Michael Shank

The Ivory Domino by Gary Henson

From Nun to Priest by Joanne Howe

Till the Nets are full – Dr. Douglas Jacoby