



foundations

MASTERCLASS



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Welcome to **Foundations** MASTERCLASS— a Sozo Equip series focused on discovering our identity, authority and mission in Christ.

We live in a wishy-washy world. There is so much rapid change and instability that the only absolute seems to be that there is absolutely no absolutes. In an environment like this we all need a faith that is rock solid.

The only rock-solid reality is Jesus Christ. He alone is the **foundation** upon which you and I can build our lives.

-Steve Smothers
Lead Equipping Pastor, Sozo Church

Session 1: Who is God? Who Am I? *(Original Identity)*

Questions (Genesis 1 and 2)

If in a group, ask these questions of each other. If you're using Foundations as a personal study, consider answering these questions on your own.

What stood out to you from today's video?

How is the idea of God being *"a community of endless self-giving love in which Father, Son and Spirit move (dance) and encircle each other in generosity and service"* different from the view you have had in the past (Genesis 1)?

Why is knowing what God is like so important?

How is the idea that you were created to live in *"unfettered union with God"* (Father/Son/Spirit) different from the way you are currently living (Genesis 1:26)?

"God-given responsibility and authority was delegated to mankind as His ambassadors of earth" (Genesis 1:26-28). How does the statement strike you?

Activations

Activations are about taking steps to apply what you have learned— in a safe learning environment. The goal of activation is not perfection, but partnering with God in faith to grow in what He has deposited into you.

Ask God for a word of encouragement for someone in your group (or life) and share it with them. (You were created to re-present the goodness of God).

Assignment

Assignments are activations to pursue for the next week.

Daily ask God to give you a new lens for seeing Him as a good loving Father who has revealed (and is revealing) Himself through Jesus. Write down what He shows you about His goodness and kindness. Review it in the evening or the next morning.

Daily ask God what He thinks about you and patiently wait for a response. Write it down and meditate on it throughout the day.

Session 2: *Who are You Agreeing With?* (*Lost Identity*)

Questions (Genesis 3)

If in a group, give people a chance to share how their assignment went. Celebrate every victory no matter the magnitude. By the way, taking a step of faith, no matter the outcome, is a victory!

What stood out to you from today's video?

Are there areas in your life where you are agreeing with the serpent's lies? What specific consequences have you experienced? (e.g. shame, fear, guilt, lifelessness, etc.)

How would you define sin?

Ponder these definitions of sin: Sin is "missing the mark of how we were created to live." Sin is "agreeing with the devil's voice, which causes us to have a distorted picture of God and ourselves." Sin is "an action rooted in a wrong way of thinking." How do these definitions of sin differ from the one you gave above?

Activations

Whose word are you agreeing with? Are you agreeing with God's truth about you or the serpent's lies?

Who is someone you will call to listen and pray with you as you honestly and openly share how you are feeling when facing the devilish attack of—

- ... shame, isolation and inadequacy screaming in your ear? (Genesis 3:8-9)
- ... the grip of paralyzing fear, terror, anxiety and worry takes over? (Genesis 3:9)
- ... a gnawing sense of guilt that causes you to make excuses and blame others? (Genesis 3:12-13)
- ... lifeless inside?

Assignment

Take time to journal the story of your spiritual journey. Include major milestones, turning points and individuals who have helped shape your life.

- Record what your life was like *before* you encountered the wooing presence of the Holy Spirit drawing you into a relationship with Jesus.
- Record *how* you encountered Jesus.
- Record what your life has been like *since* Jesus became your Savior and Lord.

Session 3: What is the Good News? *(Restored Identity)*

Questions (Luke 15)

If in a group, give people a chance to share how their spiritual journal assignment went.

What stood out to you from today's video?

Which perspective of the story in Luke 15:11-32 do you most closely relate: Younger son? Older son? Father?
Why?

Why is the Father's love such "good news?"

Why is the Father's love (grace) so difficult for most to simply receive?

What is required to receive the Father's good news of salvation? (Read Mark 1:15-17).

Takeaways

- God is good.
- We are His children
- We have been authorized and empowered as heirs of our Father's Kingdom.

Activations

Have you repented and believed the good news (Mark 1:15)?

How do I repent and trust my life to Jesus Christ?

Read Romans 10:9-10. **Believe in your heart... Confess Jesus is your Lord.**

*As a new believer (disciple of Christ), you join generations of brothers and sisters who can assist you in your ongoing spiritual journey.

Assignment

Read Galatians 4:4-7. Journal what God shows you about who you are as a son/daughter of the Father.

Meditate on *Who I Am in Christ* handout.

Who I Am in Christ ¹

There is absolutely nothing more securing than knowing the truth about who God truly is and who the Bible says I am in Christ. Regularly making these declarations of your identity in Christ will build your faith and enable you to live more confidently and powerfully—the way you were intended to live.

I AM made in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26).

I AM a child of God, skillfully, wonderfully and marvelously made (John 1:12; Psalm 139:14-18).

I AM God's child, for I am born again of the incorruptible seed of the Word of God which lives and abides forever (1 Peter 1:23).

I AM forgiven all my sins and washed in the blood of Jesus (Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 9:14; Col. 1:14; 1 John 2:12).

I AM loved, precious, forgiven, cleansed, valuable and His delight ((1 John 1:9, 3:1, 4:19; Psalm 16:3).

I AM created for great things that God has prepared for me (Ephesians 2:10, 3:20; 1 Corinthians 2:12).

I AM a new creation, old things have passed away, all things have been made new (2 Corinthians 5:17).

I AM sanctified, chosen, made holy, righteous and pure (1 Corinthians 6:11; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Colossians 3:12).

I AM saved by grace through faith so all His promises are mine (Ephesians 2:8; Galatians 3:2-5; Romans 4:16-21).

I AM justified (declared innocent) freely by grace—I now enjoy peace with God (Romans 3:24, 3:28; 5:1).

I AM chosen by God— a royal priest, holy and set apart as His (John 15:16; 1 Peter 2:9).

I AM a king and a priest, and rule and reign in life (Revelation 1:6, 5:1 ; Romans 5:17).

I AM victorious every day by the greater one that is in me (1 Corinthians 15:57; 1 John 4:4, 5:4).

I AM delivered from the powers of darkness (1 Peter 2:9; Colossians 1:13-14, 2:12).

I AM redeemed from the curse of the law and the devil's power is destroyed (Galatians 3:13; 1 John 3:8).

I HAVE been given authority over the enemy and he is under my feet (Luke 10:19; Ephesians 1:22, 3:10; Hebrews 2:8).

I AM anointed, directed and hear God's voice (1 John 2:20,27; John 10:4, 16, 27; Romans 8:14; Psalms 37:23).

I AM God's son/daughter and a citizen of heaven (Romans 8:14, 16; Philippians 3:20).

I AM an heir of God and a joint heir with Jesus— I have been blessed in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ (Romans 8:17; Colossians 1:12; Ephesians 1:3).

I AM a partaker of God's divine nature and have been given all things (2 Peter 1:3-4).

¹ *Who I am in Christ* is adapted from an article by GoHarvesting.com

I AM an heir of eternal life, and my eternal life has already started (1 John 5:11-12, Ephesians 1:4, 11: John 17:3).

I AM kept safely and surrounded by angels—so I am never afraid (Psalm 91:11; Hebrew 1:14; Joshua 1:9).

I AM strong in the Lord's power and His joy is my strength (Ephesians 6:10; Nehemiah 8:10).

I AM doing all things in Christ because all things are possible in Christ (Philippians 4:13; Mark 9:23).

I AM casting all my cares on the Lord and worry about nothing (Philippians 4:6; 1 Peter 5:7).

I AM getting all my needs met by Jesus as He abundantly supplies (Philippians 4:19; 2 Corinthians 8:9).

I AM blessed with all spiritual and natural blessings, everything I'll ever need (Ephesians 1:3; 2 Peter 1:3).

I AM reaping rewards and increase and freely giving because I am already blessed (Galatians 6:9; 2 Corinthians 9:6-11).

I AM healed by the stripes of Jesus— He took all of my sickness (1 Peter 2:24; Matthew 8:17; Acts 10:38; Psalm 103:3).

I AM not moved by what I see, I walk by faith not by sight (2 Corinthians 4:18, 5:7).

I AM more than a conqueror and victorious in all things (Romans 8:37; 1 Corinthians 15:57).

I AM a bold overcomer by the blood of the lamb and the word of my testimony (Revelation 12:11; 1 John 5:4-5).

I AM the temple of the Holy Spirit and anointed with power (1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:19; 1 John 2:20, 27; Acts 1:8).

I AM the light of the world, establishing God's way, truth and life here on earth (Matthew 5:14, 16:19, 28:19-20).

I AM moving from glory to glory, transformed into His image by His Spirit in me (2 Corinthians 3:18).

I AM united together with Christ, being one Spirit with Him (1 Corinthians 6:17; Romans 6:5, 8:11).

I AM in union and oneness with Christ—I in Him and He in me (John 17:23; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 2:6; 1 John 4:17).

I AM filled with the Spirit of Christ to do the works He did— and even greater! (John 14:12)

I AM a laborer together with God— at complete rest, ease and no striving (2 Corinthians 6:1; Matthew 11:28-30; Hebrews 4:10).

I AM filled and flooded with God—I His power, love and ability flow through me (Ephesians 1:19, 3:19-20; 2 Corinthians 3:4-5).

I AM Jesus Christ's ambassador on planet earth, sharing His good news of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:20).

I AM a member of the body of Christ— His hands, His feet, and His voice in the earth (1 Corinthians 12:27, 14:3,31; Mark 16:15-20).

I AM always in His presence, in His glory, filled with JOY (Matthew 28:20; Psalm 139:7; Acts 2:28).

Session 4: *Why is Water Baptism So Important?*

Questions

If in a group, give people a chance to share how their assignment went.

What stood out to you from today's video?

What does the word *baptize* mean? What is its "picture" of?

Why should I be baptized? (Matthew 28:18-20)

How does baptism serve as a representation of a believer's **New Birth (Titus 3:4-5)?**

Wedding Covenant (Colossians 2:10-15)? Funeral (Romans 6:1-14; Gal. 2:20)?

Who should be baptized?

When should I be baptized?

Activations

Have you been baptized? If yes— take a moment to remember your baptism and rededicate your life to your calling in Christ. Ponder the power of "sacred moments."

If you have never been baptized (with full understanding of its meaning and purpose), have a conversation with someone about *baptizing* you. It may be a pastor, mentor, parent or fellow disciple with whom you have a relationship.

Assignment

As you prepare for your water baptism, take time to re-listen to this talk. Take notes, answering the previous questions in this study guide from a biblical vantage. Spend time, with the person who will baptize you, discussing the importance of water baptism.

"What are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on the name of Jesus" (Acts 22:16).

Session 5: What Happened When Jesus Restored My Life? (Empowered Identity)

Questions

If in a group, give people a chance to share how their assignment went.

What stood out to you from today's video?

SAVED (Work of Jesus, **Ephesians 2:8-9**).

What is the full meaning of being *saved* (*sozo*)?

How would understanding and embracing the reality that you are "saved" change the way you live each day of your life?

BORN AGAIN (Work of the Holy Spirit, **John 3:1-21**).

What does it mean to be *born again*?

How would really understanding and embracing the reality that you are "born again" change the way you live each day of your life?

FORGIVEN & SENT (Work of Jesus and impartation of the Holy Spirit, **John 20:21-23**).

How would truly understanding and embracing the reality that you are "forgiven" and "sent" to be a world transformer change the way you live each day of your life?

Activations

Ask the Lord to show you an open-hearted person to approach about having a conversation about what it means to be *saved*, *born again*, *forgiven* and *sent*. Be bold and initiate the discussion.

Assignment

This week follow through on what God revealed to you in the activation.

Meditate on *Who I Am in Christ* handout.

Session 6: Is Your Relationship With God a Legal Contract OR a Marriage Covenant? (Empowered Identity)

Questions

If in a group, give people a chance to share how their activation/assignment went.

What stood out to you from today's video?

Do you view your relationship with God as primarily a legal contract or marriage covenant? Explain.

What are some of the differences between a "legal" contract and a "loving" marriage covenant?

Do you view your salvation as more of a one-time event (When I said the sinners prayer) or an ongoing relationship? Why is it important that we get this right?

Do you view eternal life as more "a future in heaven one day when you die" or do you see eternal life as having already begun now (John 17:3)? Why is it important that we get this right?

Are you motivated more by the *fear of God* or the *love of God*? Why is it important that we get this right?

Activations

Take some time to prayerfully hear God. Ask God, "Where do I need to change my way of thinking (*repent*) so I can align with your way of thinking?" Journal your thoughts using Scripture as your guide. Say a prayer of repentance (re-thinking) for your wrong thinking.

Assignment

This week follow through on what God revealed to you in the activation.

Meditate on *Who I Am in Christ* handout.

Session 7: How do I Live on the Right Side of the Cross? (Empowered Identity)

Questions

If in a group, give people a chance to share how their assignment went.

What stood out to you from today's video?

Why is making disciples on the right side of the cross different than when Jesus walked the earth and made disciples of His original twelve? (See 1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

In 2 Corinthians 5:16-21, Paul unpacks our empowered life in Christ on the right side of the cross. What does it mean to have a *new perspective* regarding Christ (2 Corinthians 5:16)?

What is your *new identity* in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17)?

What is your *new ministry* in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:18-19)?

What does it mean to you personally to be an *ambassador of Christ* (2 Corinthians 2:20-21)? Who is God putting on your heart?

Activations

Ask God to highlight someone to you. Ask God how He sees that person. Write it down in your journal. Seek opportunity to encourage that person with the prophetic word. (This is the start of being an ambassador of *good news*).

Assignment

Ask God to show you where He is at work around you and how you can join Him—bringing His message of reconciliation.

Meditate on *Who I Am in Christ* handout.

Session 8: *How do I Cultivate a Life in the Spirit?*

Questions

If in a group, give people a chance to share how their assignment went.

What stood out to you from today's video?

When did you first realize the Spirit was **with** you, drawing you to Jesus?

When did you say "yes" to the Spirit and receive your **in**-Christ relationship?

Describe some of the various **baptisms of the Spirit** you've encountered, whereby you have experienced the Holy Spirit coming **upon** you with power.

What are some of the manifestations of the Spirit you have experienced as He flows **through** you to refresh others?

Activations

Pray for a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit. If you're in a group, take time to pray for each other. Don't rush it. Wait for God.

Assignment

At the start of each day this week declare out loud from Romans 8:11, "the same power that raised Jesus from the dead lives in me!" Then ask God to fill you to overflowing!

Session 9: *How do I Bear Fruit That Will Last?* (Kingdom Living)

Questions

If in a group, give people a chance to share how their assignment went.

What stood out to you from today's video?

What is your spiritual **priority (Matthew 11:28-30)**?

How are Jesus' Kingdom ways counterintuitive to the ways of our world?

How does *abiding-rest* cultivate your sensitivity to the Spirit of Jesus within?

How are you doing with the cultivation of your **Kingdom assignment (Mt. 6:33)**:

- Life in Christ (my abiding relationship with Christ)?
- Life on Life ("garden friends")?
- Life in Community (spiritual family)?
- Life on Mission? (family; friends; co/workers or classmates; neighbors; divine encounters)

Fruit is the product of a branch being in union with the vine (John 15:5). The sap (life) in the vine flows out to the connected branch and then overflows with *excess life*, which is called fruit!

How's your overflow of "excess life" (fruit)? (Read John 15:5; Gal.5:22-23). Where do you need an upgrade?

Activations

Make a list of the persons in your Life on Mission sphere. Pray for them, asking Father to give you **love for each person** and for **specific words of encouragement** for them. Ask: what *adjustments* do I need to make in order for you to bear fruit that will remain (John 15:16). Look for opportunities to share/pray/serve your people in person.

Assignment

*If in a group, schedule one final Foundations meeting to discuss and pray for each member's **Life on Mission list**. In preparation, read and meditate on John 20:19-23.*