

First Steps - Identity + Belonging + Purpose Leader Guide

Goals: It is an incredible privilege to walk with someone as they take their first steps as a Christ follower!
The specific goals of the First Steps meetings are to:

1. Establish the new believer's confidence in Scripture as the basis for Christian faith.
2. Introduce the truth that the new believer's identity, belonging and purpose now are found in Christ.
3. Model a spiritual friendship that leads the new believer into meaningful community and service with a group of fellow believers.

Format: A balanced follow-up meeting includes time to:

- Connect - relationally through genuine care about current life experiences; asking questions, showing how Jesus is relevant and praying for these things.
- Grow - biblically through reading scripture together and discussing lesson content.
- Engage - practically by providing challenging but doable action steps to complete before next meeting.

Setting the tone:

- Approach follow-up on the basis of sharing rather than teaching.
- Be open about how you are also learning to apply the Bible in your life. Describe how the Lord is teaching you through His Word.
- Admit when you don't know an answer to a question. Look it up together or find the answer later.
- Be encouraging about any new discoveries and steps of faith taken by the new believer.

Overview: (3 meetings)

A new believer's needs include learning to live from a new orientation where **the answers to life's basic questions are now found in their relationship with God through Christ rather than in themselves or other worldviews.** These answers are rooted in core Christian doctrines which begin building a solid theological foundation.

Question

1. Identity - who am I?
2. Belonging - where do I belong?
3. Purpose - why am I here?

Answer

I am a loved child of God now and forever Eternal Security
I belong to God's family The Church
To become like Jesus: Spiritual Maturity
To help people find and follow Jesus: Spiritual Multiplication

Meeting 1

Connect: check in with how things are going (highs & lows). Pray for these and the time together.

Grow: Read Intro and Walking Together pages to introduce the why and how of meeting together. Clarify the gospel (read verses together) and confirm their decision to follow Jesus. Read and discuss Who Am I? (two pages).

Engage: discuss how they might approach the Action Steps this week.

Meeting 2

Connect: check in with how things are going and if they did any of the Action Steps. Pray for these things and the time together.

Grow: read and discuss Where do I belong? (two pages).

Engage: discuss how they might approach the Action Steps this week.

Meeting 3

Connect: check in with how things are going and if they did any of the Action Steps. Pray for these things and the time together.

Grow: read and discuss Why am I here? (two pages).

Engage: discuss how they might approach the Action Steps this week. Discuss next steps for ongoing growth as a follower of Jesus.