



# FOUNDATIONS

## STUDY GUIDE

*"The rain came down, the streams rose,  
and the winds blew and beat against  
that house; yet it did not fall, because  
it had its **foundation** on the **rock**."*

**MATTHEW 7:25 NIV**

## FOUNDATIONS OF THE ROCK STUDY GUIDE

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## Session 2

### OUR VISION

*Helping people to KNOW GOD,  
LIVE FREE, and FIND PURPOSE.*

*Philippians 3:10-12*

#### **Know God**

Philippians 3:7-8, 10 (emphasis added)

*But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ...*

*THAT I MAY KNOW HIM and the power of His resurrection...*

#### How well do you know God?

- Know about Him? Acquaintance? Friend? Father?

#### **Live Free**

John 10:10

*The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

Satan's mission is to put us into the bondage of sin, but Jesus came to set the captives free.

God doesn't want to just help you get free—He wants you to LIVE free.

Most bondage comes when people do whatever they want; the things we think are freedom end up enslaving us.

- Christ can help us to live free from every bondage

From the very start, the way to live free has been to walk in relationship with God.

Matthew 22:37-40

*Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."*

What are things in your life that you thought were freedoms but turned out to be bondages?

## **Find Purpose**

We have all been created for a purpose greater than ourselves; we need to discover the purpose that God has designed for us.

Each of us have these things that we can use to serve God:

- Time
- Talent
- Treasure

What are you doing with your time, talent and treasure?  
Specifically, what talents do you have that you could offer up to God's service?

## Core Value #3: MINISTRY OF ALL BELIEVERS

**"All believers are called to minister and therefore can serve one another in their God-given gifts and talents."**

In [1 Corinthians 12:18](#), Paul, in comparing the individual parts of the church to the natural body, writes that *"God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be."*

Because there are so many unique parts within the church, it is important to realize that each part is important and has a distinct function within the purposes of God. [Romans 12:5-6](#) tells us that as we are many members belonging to all the others, so we have different gifts according to the grace given us (see also [Ephesians 4:7](#)). It is important that each member find and take their proper place within the church. Often individuals can become dissatisfied with themselves and their specific ministries. They fail to see the importance of all types of service to the Lord. [1 Corinthians 12:14-26](#) is very clear in stating that all members are of importance, and those which seem less important are actually more important before the Lord and are given more honour. Every member is important when it is functioning in its own place.

The New Testament church is a community of people caring for one another. As such, all believers are called to minister, help, and serve in some capacity, according to their maturity and gifts. At the end of these foundation classes, the church will arrange for a personal interview to help determine the natural and spiritual gifts God has given you. The interview helps the church release individuals to do the work of the ministry within their specific abilities, maturity, understanding, gifts, and passions.

- 1. Serve where you have opportunity**
- 2. Be faithful in the small things**
- 3. Become part of a team**

## Core Value #4: LIBERTY IN ACCOUNTABILITY

**"The church is unleashed when people are disciplined and given a liberty to be released in their creativity and gifts, yet required to walk in accountability one with another."**

We believe that God has given each individual unique spiritual and natural gifts and abilities. Along with these, God gives passion and perspectives on how to use these within the kingdom of our Lord. Creative concepts for ministry are not limited to "upper leadership"; but are given to all members of the body of Christ. God's desire is that individuals be released into fruitfulness within the kingdom.

Training and discipleship can help develop the effectiveness of that which God has entrusted to the individual. To enable growth and the full release of all that God has for an individual it is important that there be levels of accountability for people and ministries. This accountability provides the "fine tuning" necessary to release growth and the full potential which God has for each individual and for the church. The development of spiritual gifts and ministries is best obtained within the framework of accountability which is administered through true relationships within the body of Christ. As believers it is essential that we form relationships with others within the Local Church. These relationships help develop a network which enables us to grow spiritually and through which we can help others grow in Christ. Ministry can be accomplished and developed within the confines of a safe loving environment where we are received as we are, yet where we are challenged to grow to our full potential in Christ.

### Qualifications for Ministering

Because of the great mandate that God has given to all His people, and because God has called us to function together within the body of the local church, it is essential that there be a strong sense of team ministry through which individuals can relate to each other and flow. For a person to be a part of a true team, the individual and the team must exhibit certain attributes; these include:

- A willingness and an ability to submit. True submission is essential to enable the team to function as a unit. ([Ephesians 5:21](#)).
- Servanthood ([1 Kings 12:1-15](#); [Mark 10:35-45](#)). There must be a willingness to serve in small things as well as in larger things: Joshua served Moses, Elisha served Elijah, David served Saul, the disciples served Jesus. In [Luke 22:24-27](#)

Jesus teaches that the desire to serve is the only motive a person should have for wanting to minister. God calls His people to "**minister to a people**" not to "a ministry". For example, Paul was called to the Gentiles; Peter was called to the Jews. In [Matthew 10:3](#), Jesus called the disciples to minister to a specific people. One who ministers to others should never be self-serving or self-exalting ([1 Peter 5:6](#); [Luke 14:11](#)). They must never think of themselves more highly than they ought ([Romans 12:3](#)). The success of a person should be seen as having **nothing** to do with his or her own personal merit ([1 Corinthians 15:9-10](#)).

- Correctable. Effective team members must be willing to receive correction, and must desire it ([Proverbs 12:1](#)), knowing that it will help them to improve and increase their ministry within the kingdom. A true humility and an inner strength enables them to receive correction without threatening their own security.
- Secure. Insecurity is one of the greatest ruins of an individual's ministry ability. It causes people to act or react for the purpose of protecting themselves, their ministry, their honour, etc. Insecurity causes one to get their identity from one's ministry, one's position, or the accolades of people instead of from their relationship with the Lord Jesus. Such people will then become manipulative for the purpose of obtaining security from others and from their success.
- Accountable. Team ministry requires leaders to be accountable one to another ([1 Peter 5:5](#); [Galatians 2:1-2](#)). Many people who are accustomed to the independent spirit of our age are not willing to walk in accountability to others.
- Holding personal positions and ministry loosely. In pushing and clamouring for positions of ministry, one always ends up in frustrated and disappointed. Struggling to hold on to positions or titles likewise will ultimately result in one's losing them ([Daniel 4:17](#)).
- Humility. God always chooses humble leaders over ambitious ones ([1 Peter 5:6](#); [Philippians 2:2-4](#)).

## Ministry Within the Church

Individuals are released into positions of responsibility by the leadership within the church. As people prove themselves to be responsible with the tasks that are before them, they are promoted to other levels of responsibility and authority. One of the goals of leadership is to help each member find one's

specific place of ministry within the local church and to help develop people into their full potential within the body of Christ, ([Ephesians 4:11-13](#)).

People are placed into ministry and serving situations through the combined work of the administrative and pastoral leadership. This evaluation precedes in a professional manner and relies on the development of relationships. Everybody who successfully completes the Foundations of the Rock course is personally interviewed to help determine where he or she might be able to serve and minister within the church. This information is then placed into a pool through which leaders may draw upon the resources and gifts of individuals. In placing people into positions of responsibility, the leadership endeavours to evaluate the specific calling, passion, talents, gifts, maturity, character, lifestyle, and values of the individual and then to find a position of ministry suited for that particular individual.

- **Calling** refers to the specific area of ministry (motivational gifting) that God has determined the person should be walking in. Often prophetic ministry is necessary to help determine God's perspective with regard to the individual.
- **Passion** refers to the driving force that God has placed within the person for ministry in a certain area or field. A person may have a passion for working with children, youth, or elderly; for worship, teaching, evangelism, and so on. When one works within one's passion, one tends to be self-motivated and do not easily get tired from doing the same thing over and over again, or from little "up-front" results.
- **Talents** refer to the naturally developed skills and abilities which one has obtained through the course of one's lifetime. These skills and abilities might include such things as carpentry, welding, book-keeping, musical ability, cooking skills, secretarial ability, vocational skills, etc. Skilled workers will find opportunities to meet a variety of needs, both inside and outside of the church.
- **Gifting** refers to those specific gifts that God has given to individuals that enable them to excel beyond what natural practice and effort could enable. Often extra practice or instruction may be necessary to further develop the gifting. When people function in spiritual situations with their natural talents and developed ability, they tend to evoke changes in and responses to the natural side of individuals. When people function in spiritual situations with their God given gifts, changes tend to take place within the spiritual side of individuals. It is necessary for both natural and spiritual changes to take place within the church and individuals.



- **Maturity** refers to the combined knowledge and wisdom with which a person functions in a specific task or situation. Maturity is not an indication of one's actual age or of one's experiential age. One's wisdom can be seen by the way in which one conducts oneself in given situations, the choice of words used to convey one's thoughts, the various parameters and people which one takes into account before decisions or heeding advice, as well as one's balanced knowledge and application of the Word of God.
- **Character** refers to the person's ability to live out the nature of Christ in all areas of their life. It refers to things like: punctuality, dependability, honesty, kindness, gentleness, appreciative, attentiveness, consistency, flexibility, etc.
- **Lifestyle** refers to one's personal life and the way that one conducts oneself. It would refer to the strength of one's marriage, the conduct of one's children, etc. It is seen in how one puts one's faith into application in the areas of witnessing, personal devotions, faithfulness on the job, relationships with others within the body of Christ, emotional stability, etc.
- **Values** refer to whether an individual holds and reflects the core values of Church of the Rock. Because the core values of an individual or of a church affect one's conduct and one's emphasis of impartation, it is important that before one be promoted to high levels of leadership that there be a common set of core values.

The leadership's desire is that every individual would allow God to draw out all these attributes, in order to find his or her most effective place of ministry within the body of Christ, while simultaneously pursuing further development.

## ACTION STEPS

*Psalm 92:13*

Participate in:

- 1) **Discover Your Giftings (Transformations Course)**
- 2) **Home Group or small relational group**
- 3) **Acts of service by volunteering**