

# NEXT STEPS<sup>7</sup>

## FAITH ESSENTIALS: STARTING THE JOURNEY

### SELF STUDY QUESTIONS

Where am I in my journey with the Lord?

What obstacles are standing in the way of me continuing my journey with the Lord?

### GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

How do our individual journeys relate to each other? Is there a common journey that exists in this group? What practical ways can you commit to helping other group members continue in their own journey with the Lord?

### MAIN NOTES

#### **Put God's Word First**

Our entire journey starts with God and His truth.

Problems will come, but when we are doers of God's word we will be able to stand during the storms of life.

We need to value God's word. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:17)

Spend time meditating on God's word. Think about it, imagine it, personalize it, be absorbed in it, speak it, confess it.

Believe and confess what God says about us rather than what the world says.

#### **Be Aware of Moral Company**

The company we keep affects us both positively and negatively.

Bad company ruins good morals (1 Corinthians 15:33) and a wise man should choose his friends carefully (Proverbs 12:26)

We should develop friendships with those who will stretch and encourage us.

He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed.  
(Proverbs 13:20)

We should invest in 2-way relationships by finding someone that is more mature in God to stick by, and someone that is less mature in God to encourage them.

### **Discipleship**

Discipleship is a continual process of growth. Regardless of age, we are still growing in Christ.

“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”  
(Matthew 16:24)

“The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher.”  
(Luke 6:40)

### **Faith to Faith**

God does not have a plan for our lives that does not include faith.

Our faith needs to grow to fulfill God’s plan and all He has destined for us. The faith that we start with is not enough to finish with.

God takes us from faith to faith in order to reveal more of his plan to us. He is able to use us more and more as our faith grows.

## **DAILY LIVING**

Each journey taken to explore something can look a little different based on the path taken. However, there are specific flagstones or mile markers along that path which are recognizable to all. These signs lead us in the right direction to go. They can be things like communicating with God through prayer, reading His word, baptism in water and by the Holy Spirit, and many others. They let us know we are moving in the right direction with the Lord. As we focus on His next step in front of us today, remember that He is our good Heavenly Father and knows just how to lead us from A to B to C and beyond.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways submit to Him and He will make your paths straight.” - Proverbs 3:5

## **PRAYER POINT**

Take a moment to go through the Self Study and Group Discussion questions again. Ask God to point out a key truth that He wants you to focus on. Ask Him what He wants to show you about that truth, and thank Him for it.

## PERSONAL NOTES