

Christian Basics Program – Facilitator General Guidelines

1. What is the “Christian Basics” Program?

“Christian Basics” is a one-on-one discipleship program designed for new believers in Jesus. As the name suggests, the program covers the basics, or key beliefs of the Christian faith and is grounded in the Bible. People who participate in this program, agree to meet for six, 1.5 hour sessions, to explore the key Christian beliefs and discipleship principles.

2. Who is the program targeted to?

The program is targeted to a new or recent convert but can also be used as a tool for those who are exploring the Christian faith. Ideally, an equipped believer will meet one-on-one with a pre/new believer to discuss the content in the materials. However, the program can also be used in a small group setting.

3. What are the benefits of the program?

Some of the benefits of the Christian Basics discipleship program include:

- the program can be started any time – no need to wait for an official course to start
- it is highly relational and models disciple-making for the new convert
- the place and time of meeting is flexible
- the focus is on Scripture and learning how to access the Scriptures easily using on-line tools
- there is an option to explore more Scripture outside of meetings
- it is very accessible for those who struggle in group sessions
- those involved only have to commit for six 1.5 hour session, so it is not a length commitment.

4. What topics does the program cover?

The program covers the following topics:

1. The Problem of Sin
2. Who is Jesus?
3. Jesus’ Death
4. Jesus’ Resurrection
5. The Holy Spirit
6. Spiritual Growth

5. Tell me more about each topic:

- **The Problem of Sin** - addresses the problem of human sinfulness and the consequences of suffering, death and broken relationship with God and people. Jesus is presented as the solution to the problem.
- **Who is Jesus?** - reveals Jesus as the “Son of God” and demonstrates His authority over all of creation through His miraculous works, signs and wonders.
- **Jesus’ Death** – covers the story of Jesus’ unjust arrest, trial and crucifixion on a Roman cross as well the importance of His death to deal with the problem of our sin.
- **Jesus’ Resurrection** – explores the story of the bodily resurrection of Jesus from the dead as well as some of His post resurrection encounters. It also explains the importance of the hope that the resurrection gives every believer in Jesus.
- **The Holy Spirit** – shares the story of the arrival of the promised gift of the Holy Spirit, who He is, and how He empowers believers in Jesus to grow His kingdom on earth.
- **Spiritual Growth** – covers some of the key principles and actions that help believers to grow in their faith as they journey through life, including the importance of prayer, Bible reading, fellowship, serving, sharing etc.

6. What tools are provided and required to run the program?

There is a Facilitator and Participant guide for each topic. The Facilitator guide has the full Bible passages included as well as discussion prompts. The Participant guide has explanations and Bible references only to equip them in finding passages and exploring the Bible for themselves.

Both guides reference several Bible passages to fully explain the key beliefs and principles of the Christian faith. To make finding the passages easy, it is highly recommended that both the facilitator and participant download the “Tecarta Life Bible app” on their smart phones using the following links depending on the device:

- **Apple:** <https://apps.apple.com/au/app/life-bible-app/id325955298>
- **Android:**
https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.tecarta.TecartaBible&hl=en_US&pli=1

Facilitators may need to spend more time during the first session helping participants to find passages on their phones/devices until they get the hang of it. Most people work it out very quickly and feel empowered once they know how to use the tools.

It is important that the Facilitator and the Participant only look up and read the Bible passages following the “Read” text in the Participant Guide and the passages in the boxes in the Facilitator Guide. The Bible passages following the “See Also” text should not be covered, as it will make the meeting very long. Facilitators should encourage participants to look up the passages later and ask any questions they may have during a future catch-up.

7. How long does each session last?

Depending on how much discussion there is, each session should take between one and one and a half hours to complete.

8. Where should we meet?

It is always best to meet in person. However, if there are time/travel constraints it would be appropriate to use an online platform like Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Whatsapp or Facetime. At the very least it is important to be able to see one-another’s faces.

9. What would each session roughly look like?

Each session should have the following components:

- general catch-up at the start of the session
- discussing the material and reading the proposed Bible passages
- asking some key questions relating to the material and actions following the meeting
- praying together before leaving.

10. Key Tips for a Successful Session

- Be in prayer for the participant before and after your meetings.
- Show genuine interest in the participant.
- Remember that it is a discussion, not a download! Keep asking questions and encouraging the participant to speak.
- Feel free to advise the participant when you can’t answer a question and tell them you will find out for the following meeting. Ask your pastor and share what you learnt the following week.
- Avoid arguing or needing to be right.

- Encourage the person to read the additional passages in-between meetings.
- Get the person to read the suggested passages out loud. However, if they are uncomfortable with reading, then offer to do it yourself.
- Remember that it is not just about getting through the content but also building relationship.
- Try to stick to the 1.5 hour time limit. If you have not worked through all the material, either suggest that you pick it up the following week (which may extend the number of times that you meet) or suggest they work through the rest of the passages at home and bring any questions to the next session.
- Be patient and flexible at all times.
- Remember that this is God's work, done with God's power. You are simply the facilitator. Therefore, trust in in God for all things and release any burden in the discipleship process to Jesus.