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## Foursquare Path: A Discipleship Journey Rooted in the Foursquare Gospel

Timothy Lee

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GEORGE FOX UNIVERSITY

PROJECT PORTFOLIO:

FOURSQUARE PATH:

A DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY ROOTED IN THE FOURSQUARE GOSPEL



IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT FOR THE DEGREE OF  
DOCTOR OF MINISTRY  
PORTLAND SEMINARY

BY:

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PROJECT FACULTY:

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PORTLAND, OREGON

FEBRUARY 2022



## CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

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This certifies that the doctoral Project Portfolio of

Timothy Lee

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for the degree of Doctor of Ministry in Leadership & Spiritual Formation.

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## **DEDICATION**

To the faithful and faith-filled people of Life Church and the family that is the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel. I began this journey as a different man in a different world and I offer you this work now as an anchor tied and a lighthouse shining to Jesus. Together, may we be equipped to continue the work of inter-denominational, worldwide evangelism.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mom: Thank you for believing I was smarter than my grades and my heart tried to convince me. Thank you for the pushing and the praying. Thank you for teaching me, through many deep conversations, the power of curiosity.

Dennis Easter: Your encouragement and leadership has opened doors for me that I never knew were on my path. I am grateful for your mentorship, your deep questions, and your subtle and wise nudges toward discovering and making my unique Kingdom contribution.

MaryKate Morse & Ken VanVleet: Thank you for modeling compassion and courage while leading an already challenging program through such incredibly challenging days. The care and wisdom you put into our journey and into each of us as travelers has made all the difference for us, and for myself, has made me into a different man. You have helped me to become more like Jesus and more like me.

Jason Wellman: Every traveler needs a guide, and I am certain I would not have found my destination had you not been mine. Thank you for seeing what I could not see, believing in this project through the days when I grew weary, and pushing me to discover deeper ideas and better words. It feels in some way that we are crossing this finish line together. Here's to no more deadlines that I will make you wait for me to meet until the very last minute (and often beyond).

Dream Team: Moses had friends and family to hold his arms during a vital endeavor that required his full attention. You have been my Aaron and Hur, holding up my arms and helping to watch over our people during my own endeavor. I could not have done this without you. Life Church could not have endured this without you. I owe you a debt of gratitude for your support, partnership, and friendship that I intend to repay daily for the rest of my life. Teamwork truly does make even the wildest dreams work, and I am honored to call you my team.

Finally, Sharon, Hannah, and Selah: Thank you for giving me permission to take this journey. Thank you for all the ways you cheered me on and cheered me up along the way. Thank you for the many cups of coffee you brought me in the writing cave. Thank you for the grace to miss or be half-present at so many events over these last few years. You have graciously sacrificed and been on this adventure right along with me. The joy, the honor, and the glory of my life is in being known and loved by you. That accomplishment is a greater treasure than any degree. Let's keep walking.

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## **GLOSSARY**

**The Foursquare Church.** The common phrase used by Foursquare leaders to refer to the denomination named the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel. Where this work refers to individual Foursquare congregations, the phrase “local Foursquare church” will be used.

**The Foursquare Gospel.** The foundational tenets of faith in the person and ministry of Jesus Christ as Savior, Baptizer with the Holy Spirit, Healer, and Soon Coming King.

## **RESERCH METHOD**

This Project utilized a blended methodology that draws upon bibliographic resources, data derived from stakeholder collaboration, and human-centered design and iteration processes to create a heuristic-based, application-oriented Project.

## **ABSTRACT**

The International Church of the Foursquare Gospel (the Foursquare Church) was founded by Aimee Semple McPherson on the foundational teachings of Jesus Christ as Savior, Baptizer with the Holy Spirit, Healer, and Soon Coming King. The early history of the Foursquare Church was marked by incredible signs and wonders, culturally sensitive and impactful global missions, and dynamic church growth. This was the fruit of a movement full of people who deeply shared a clear and passionate understanding of what it meant to be Foursquare. In the past two decades, however, there appears to have been a steady decline in the development of disciples who carry the distinct Foursquare ethos that was so rich in the early days of the movement. Members of local Foursquare churches seem to know little about what it means to be Foursquare.

Here-in lies the great opportunity this dissertation intends to address. As a result of denomination-wide restructuring, the general decline of seeker-sensitive churches in the west, and the impact of the social unrest of recent American history exacerbated by a global pandemic, the Foursquare Church is positioned to benefit from accessible discipleship resources with a distinct Foursquare ethos.

Foursquare Path is a ten-week discipleship program designed to make disciples of Jesus rooted in the Foursquare Gospel. During Foursquare Path, Journey Groups of up to twelve are led by a Journey Guide through the four tenets about Jesus that are foundational to the Foursquare Gospel. After an introductory session, Journey Groups walk through learning, activating, discussing, and reflecting, with a two-week focus on each of the four tenets. Foursquare Path concludes with a session of celebration and preparation, with suggested practices for continued engagement.

## INTRODUCTION

### Discovery-Design-Delivery

#### *Discovery*

I began this program with an expansive view of a perceived need within the American Foursquare Church for increased engagement with structured forms of training for ministers within the denomination. My initial thoughts regarding my NPO were that I would develop a continued education program or resource for credentialed ministers. In recent years, denominational leadership focus had been shifting from a significant work of restructuring the organization to addressing an ambiguity of identity for the denomination itself at the local church level. My assumption was that engagement with continued education related to Foursquare orthodoxy and orthopraxy would clarify Foursquare identity among leaders who would, in turn, begin to lead their church with increased unity around that reinforced Foursquare identity.

Through the Discovery Workshop, one-on-one interviews, and direct input by my Project Faculty, it quickly became apparent that the scope of my original NPO was too broad. An underlying opportunity emerged through this phase to set the focus of my work on the members of local Foursquare churches, rather than on their leaders. Instead of continuing education for Foursquare leaders, I was advised to narrow my focus to equipping Foursquare leaders with a resource for the members of their local churches. This was the first time I began to entertain the notion of developing a discipleship resource rather than a leadership development tool. Rather than narrowing my focus at this point, I added discipleship to the list of possible NPOs.

By the time I wrote my Expertise Essay, I was still thinking about developing a project that would be focused on denominational and local church leaders. I discovered a short-lived program called Leadership Enrichment And Development (L.E.A.D) which was run by the

denomination in the 1990's. L.E.A.D. was responsible for publishing books on Foursquare theology, distributing them to Foursquare pastors, and hosting annual mandatory training seminars around the United States to keep local Foursquare pastors regularly engaging with Foursquare doctrine. During the research phase of my Expertise Essay, I spoke with the founding leaders of this program and was encouraged to consider an NPO that would result in the relaunch of L.E.A.D. I entered the design phase with the intention to set local church discipleship aside and do just that.

Another key discovery that contributed to the narrowing of my NPO was related to the language (or rather, lack of language) regarding discipleship and spiritual formation within the Foursquare Church and how that language impacts understanding and engagement among local church members. As expounded upon in my Expertise Essay, one of the strengths of the Foursquare Church has been the sense of autonomy afforded to local Foursquare pastors in the structure and leadership of their church. Simultaneously, this autonomy has resulted in ambiguity regarding discipleship and spiritual formation. Local pastors have historically been resistant to uniformity of language and, as a result, formal language regarding discipleship and spiritual formation made by denominational leadership does not exist.

This ambiguity is exacerbated by the nature of pentecostal church culture in general. The emphasis on the baptism, gifts, and miraculous work of the Holy Spirit in and through the people of God is a great strength of the Foursquare Church. Once again, however, this strength leaves room for a weakness of language regarding personal responsibility and development that in other streams of the Church would be called “discipleship” and/or “spiritual formation”. The Foursquare Church at large does not use the term spiritual formation in any formal or official capacity. The term discipleship appears in sermons and leadership talks, but cannot be found in

any official, public-facing writing of the denomination. If the terms “discipleship” and “spiritual formation” are used in Foursquare churches, it is at the discretion of local leadership and finds unique meaning and expression within each local church.

This discovery served to narrow the language of my own project away from the term *spiritual formation* as it is a term that the average member of a local church will not yet be familiar with. To that end, I chose to narrow my language to use of the word *discipleship*. While a strong argument can be made that discipleship and spiritual formation are two distinct things, this narrowing to a broader term will best serve the goal of my final project and provide a clear entry-level expression for my ultimate target audience. My hope beyond my own local church is that this approach may serve to offer language that can strengthen a sense of shared identity that the denomination is currently working to clarify.

### *Design*

Through my research I found that denominationally supported discipleship and training resources were greatly lacking regarding the foundational elements of the Foursquare Gospel. Furthermore, there is no unifying onboarding resource for members or would-be members of local Foursquare churches. Discovering this hole in the work of the Foursquare denomination, I began to plan for a project that would benefit local church pastors while continuing to hold on to the idea of an NPO that would focus on leadership development on a denomination-wide level. By the end of my Design Workshop, two Napkin Pitches had emerged: a discipleship resource for members of local Foursquare churches and a re-launch of Foursquare’s shuttered L.E.A.D. program.

My preference favored the L.E.A.D. revitalization, primarily because at the time I was thinking that the greatest impact could be made by a top-down approach. Through feedback from several mentors, it became apparent that creating a project that required the total buy-in of the denomination was untenable. Relaunching L.E.A.D. may be a need for the Foursquare Church, but I would not be able to control that outcome with my project. This realization was perhaps the most significant narrowing step in the journey toward my final project.

Moving away from a project that would require denominational buy-in allowed me to envision work that would benefit local congregations directly, beginning with my own and growing relationally from there. It was at this point that I narrowed my NPO statement to a focus on the opportunity the Foursquare Church must address to develop discipleship resources within the distinctly Foursquare ethos. From there, I created a prototype for a discipleship resource called Foursquare Path that would be designed primarily for members of local Foursquare churches, who are either new to faith or interested in the Foursquare Gospel.

### *Delivery*

Having developed Foursquare Path as a ten-week discipleship resource for small groups, I am hopeful that it will have a positive impact at least on my own local church. However, I have been greatly encouraged by the response of other Foursquare pastors and denominational leaders who have seen portions of my work so far. The broad potential scope of Foursquare Path is for it to become a resource that is used by the entire denomination as a recommended discipleship resource for local Foursquare churches. If that is the case, then I would exceed all my benchmarks for success by a large portion and, ironically, would have created a local church resource that would be adopted by the denomination for the benefit of Foursquare pastors to

increase awareness around Foursquare identity. While that is not a stated benchmark, it would be an additional marker of success for what I still perceive to be a felt need within the denomination.

The success of the Foursquare Path launch will be measured by several benchmarks that focus on the growth of participants, the quality of the materials produced, and the number of people who successfully complete Foursquare Path. Initially, my hope was to be able to produce high quality materials that will enable participants to articulate to their Journey Guides what they are learning during each session as well as after they have completed Foursquare Path. I also hope that these materials will be able to be taught with minimal training. I believe that the materials I have produced met the requirements for these benchmarks, though this will not be able to be fully measured until Foursquare Path is field tested and feedback is received from Journey Guides and participants.

Success will also be measured by the number of people who complete Foursquare Path through the initial year after its launch. I hope to see at least 50 people completing Foursquare Path at Life Church within the first year, with at least 90% of participants who begin Foursquare Path completing it on their first attempt. Foursquare Path will also be sent to at least 3 other Foursquare churches to gain further feedback on the content itself; with additional interest on whether Foursquare Path can be run in varied context without need for adjustments.

Finally, and most importantly, I hope to be able to measure participants' growth in two areas. First, in their commitment to continued discipleship and to fulfilling the Great Commission in the context of and partnership with their local church. Second, in their ability to describe the foundational elements of the Foursquare Gospel.



Feedback will be gathered from Journey Guides upon the completion of the first several sessions of Foursquare Path through debrief meetings. As Journey Guides provide feedback regarding their experience during Foursquare Path, the materials will be updated as needed. Eventually, this feedback will be gathered by means of two sets of survey questions which will be developed for Journey Guides and participants. These surveys will be available on the Foursquare Path website and made available to Journey Guides and participants during their final session. Hosting these surveys digitally will allow for trends to be observed so materials can be adjusted as needed.

An additional benefit of participant surveys will be to gather questions and points of interest for further learning to be gathered. This information will help in deciding which topics to create resources for further learning to host on the Foursquare Path website. These resources will include articles, videos, and other forms of media, all of which will be created in partnership with Foursquare leaders.

### **Personal Learning**

When I set out to conduct research for my project, I was attempting to find written histories or evidence of discipleship resources or traditions practiced by Foursquare leaders over the denomination's near century-long history. The fundamental challenge in conducting this research is that there is actually very little written. While there are several books written on the early history of the Foursquare Church, they tend to focus on the life and work of the movement's founder, Aimee Semple McPherson. When it comes to passing down the narratives of Foursquare orthodoxy and orthopraxy, The Foursquare Church has apparently followed what seems to be a typically pentecostal trend of oral tradition.

This certainly presented a distinct challenge in that I was unable to find a robust history of denominationally unified discipleship resources. However, while being a challenge, this reality also reinforced the hypothesis that eventually solidified in my NPO. Once I had determined the denomination is positioned well to begin producing discipleship resources within their distinct pentecostal ethos, I was then faced with the issue of determining how to go about delivering this resource to a denomination of largely autonomous pastors who have historically been resistant to top-down orders from the denomination that impact their local congregations. This was one of the primary reasons that L.E.A.D. failed. However, this was overcome by the decision to forgo denominational involvement and produce a resource specifically for members of local churches that will be a benefit to those who adopt it without engagement being forced by denominational leadership.

On the other side of developing this project, there remains one potential point of failure that I can currently perceive. I plan to launch Foursquare Path in my local church. However, I cannot control the desire to use the materials in other churches. It is possible that people outside of my own local church will not be interested in Foursquare Path. While lack of interest beyond my church would not mean that Foursquare Path is a failure, it would be a disappointing result considering that desire for an expanded scope.

The Foursquare Path materials, in their current iteration are ready for beta testing in local churches. As Journey Groups are conducted and feedback is compiled, it is conceivable that adjustments to content and form will be needed to improve the resource. I will be interested to see if there is any need to adjust any of the theological claims made throughout either to gain more clarity or to align more accurately with Foursquare theology. Since I wrote this resource as

an individual Foursquare pastor, it will be helpful to see how other Foursquare pastors and theologians may be able to strengthen the content in future iterations of Foursquare Path.

### **Next Steps**

After graduation from this program, I intend to roll-out the launch of Foursquare Path over the course of the next year. In July of 2022 I will begin announcing Foursquare Path to my own local Foursquare church (Life Church) for enrollment into Journey Groups of up to twelve people per group. After hosting a one-day training for a group of potential Journey Guides we will launch Journey Groups in September, hoping to fill up to twelve Journey Groups of up to twelve people each. I will end the year gathering feedback from Journey Guides from those initial groups and making any adjustments to Foursquare Path materials as needed.

At the first quarter of 2023, Foursquare Path will continue to be run at Life Church and the process of expanding engagement beyond my own church will begin. I intend to send Foursquare Path to multiple Foursquare churches around the United States for testing with agreements to offer detailed feedback after completion. I will also partner with campus chaplains on the LIFE Pacific University campuses in California and Virginia for testing among the student body. As feedback comes in from these trial runs, I will begin the development of a Foursquare Path website which will host resources for further learning which would be developed in partnership with Foursquare leaders.

By the spring of 2023 and beyond, I plan to continue gathering feedback from all Journey Guides who agreed to run Foursquare Path and update materials as needed. Then I will hope to accomplish two additional goals. First, I want to work with LIFE Pacific University to adapt Foursquare Path into a for-credit class. Second, I hope to partner with Foursquare

denominational leadership to develop a plan to offer Foursquare Path to all Foursquare churches within the United States, and beyond as interest and opportunity presents itself.

## **Conclusion**

I recall being told by several people before I began this program that working on my dissertation would be take me on a journey; that what I thought I was going to write about at the beginning would be quite different from the final result. I imagined that I had somehow hacked the system and discovered the singularly brilliant topic that would require no narrowing. Of course, like all other doctoral students before and will be after me, I was wrong. Not only have I been on a journey which led to a significantly narrowed and improved NPO, but I believe this journey has resulted in personal improvement as well.

Through the challenges and encouragement of my Project Faculty, I believe I have become a much better writer and deeper thinker than I was when I begin this program. The work of narrowing my thinking and sharpening my writing has been a welcome challenge, and I believe, borne fruit in my work. This growth has also had an additional, positive impact on my work as a preacher and teacher. While I am proud of the work I have produced for this project, I am equally proud of the overall growth I have experienced as a result.

Furthermore, I am grateful for the increased awareness and passion that this journey has produced in me. Through my research, I have learned a great deal about my own denomination and, as a result, have seen doors begin to open to have new opportunities to serve the Foursquare Church. Another significant benefit from this work has been a renewed passion for the specific theological framework known as the Foursquare Gospel. I have been a member and minister in the Foursquare Church since I was a child. I feel now that I know more about my own tribe than

ever and can see the work of God's hand in and through this people that He intends to continue. I hope to be a part of that work for many years to come.

Most significantly, I have become more committed to the work of discipleship than ever. I was raised as a member of a Foursquare Church, went to the flagship Foursquare college, and have served all my years of ministry in Foursquare churches. Working on this project has helped me to realize that for all the good I have experienced in this denomination, there has been a significant lack in intentional discipleship. This has affected the way I have developed as a follower of Jesus as well as a minister in His name. Creating Foursquare Path has become about much more than simply completing a project. The work of developing disciples of Jesus with intentionality is what I desire to dedicate the rest of my life to.

Finally, when I think about the future potential for Foursquare Path, I hope that to some degree it will serve as a spark for my denomination. To ignite a new flame for intentional disciple making that goes beyond simply preaching the Foursquare Gospel and teaches people how to live it out. To inspire further work of the same kind. Ultimately, though, my dreams for Foursquare Path are simple. That it would be used to make disciples of Jesus who are equipped to go and make disciples. If even one more person's life could be changed for the better because of Foursquare Path, then it would have been worth the journey.

## **PROJECT**

### **NPO Statement**

The Foursquare Church is positioned to benefit from accessible discipleship resources with a distinct Foursquare ethos.

### **Project Description**

Foursquare Path is a ten-week discipleship program designed to make disciples of Jesus within the Foursquare ethos. During Foursquare Path, Journey Groups of up to twelve are led by a Journey Guide through the four tenets about Jesus that are foundational to the Foursquare Gospel; that Jesus is Savior, Baptizer with the Holy Spirit, Healer, and Soon Coming King. After an introductory session Journey Groups walk through learning, activating, discussing, and reflecting; taking two weeks to focus on each of the four tenets. Foursquare Path concludes with a session of celebration and preparation, with suggested practices for continued engagement.

### **Project Scope**

- Invitation/promotional materials as needed may consist of printed and digital resources that can be shared in person and online.
- Workbooks and leader guides will be developed and printed prior to the first gathering.
- Leaders will be trained by first completing Foursquare Path, then shadowing an established leader.
- Weekly meetings can be held in any space that is conducive for hosting the number of people in each Journey Group.

- Workbooks will lead participants through ten weeks of engaging discipleship material centered on Jesus through the lens of the Foursquare Gospel. These guides will place an emphasis on interaction during gatherings and action steps between gatherings. As it is helpful to the purpose and flow of Foursquare Path, supplemental resources will be made available online for participants to engage with.

### **Benchmarks**

1. Participants demonstrate an increased commitment to continued discipleship and fulfilling the Great Commission in their personal life and in the context of partnership with a local church as demonstrated in verbal communication during an exit-interview after Foursquare Path engagement. Participants should be able to articulate the importance of continued discipleship, as well as describing practical ways they plan to continue to engage discipleship within the context of the local church. To that end, participants should also be able to explain the purpose and value of local church engagement to aid in discipleship and evangelism.
2. Participants demonstrate an increased ability to describe the foundational elements of the Foursquare Gospel as demonstrated by knowledge assessments before and after Foursquare Path engagement. Participants should be able to communicate the four tenets of the Foursquare Gospel being Jesus Christ as Savior, Baptizer with the Holy Spirit, Healer, and Soon Coming King. Participants should also be able to describe practical ways that each of these four tenets impacts their personal life as well as their life within the context of their community and local church.
3. Materials and presentations are high quality and clear as evidenced by participants' ability to articulate back to Journey Guides what they are learning during each session

and once they have completed Foursquare Path. The success of this benchmark will be measured by asking Journey Guides at the conclusion of Foursquare Path if participants did, in fact, articulate learning back to them, as well as if any comments were made about the quality and clarity of the material.

4. Materials can be taught by Journey Guides with minimal training which produces high engagement during and after each session as evidenced by participants' completing weekly assignments. Success in this benchmark will be measured by Journey Guides stating that the training they received enabled them to lead Foursquare Path without needing additional support, as well as by participants stating in exit-interviews that their Journey Guide offered them clear instructions for each step on the journey.
5. At least 50 people completing Foursquare Path at Life Church within the first year after its launch, as evidenced by enrollment and completion records.
6. At least 90% of participants who begin Foursquare Path complete it on their first attempt as evidenced by enrollment and completion records.
7. At least 3 other Foursquare churches committing to and successfully running Foursquare Path within the first year after its launch and offering feedback on content, design, and the ability for material to be used in various contexts based on interviews with facilitators and pastors after completion.

## **Introduction**

I am an ordained Foursquare pastor of a local church called Life Church in Lancaster California. As a member of the Foursquare denomination for three decades, I have extensive personal experience with the highly relational model of discipleship and training that is the norm in our tribe. As is typical in Pentecostal environments, our discipleship, stories, and culture all



tend to be handed down to newer generations through oral tradition. There are a few books that have laid out the early history and foundational theology of the Foursquare Church. However, there has been little added in formal writing in recent years. Furthermore, Foursquare currently lacks fresh, formalized, written discipleship curriculum. After nearly one hundred years of history, the Foursquare Church is positioned to benefit from accessible discipleship resources with a distinct Foursquare ethos. My project aims to provide such a resource for local Foursquare churches.

Foursquare Path is focused on the four foundational tenets of the Foursquare Gospel to provide a structured discipleship resource for local Foursquare churches. In the research phase of this project, I discovered that it is common for members of local Foursquare churches to be unaware of the meaning of foundational Foursquare doctrine. While there are many discipleship resources used in Foursquare churches, I was unable to find any resources rooted in what we call the Foursquare Gospel.

To that end, Foursquare Path is a ten-week discipleship program designed to make disciples of Jesus within the Foursquare ethos. During Foursquare Path, Journey Groups of up to twelve are led by a Journey Guide through the four tenets about Jesus that are foundational to the Foursquare Gospel; that Jesus is Savior, Baptizer with the Holy Spirit, Healer, and Soon Coming King. After an introductory session Journey Groups walk through learning, activating, discussing, and reflecting; taking two weeks to focus on each of the four tenets. Foursquare Path concludes with a session of celebration and preparation, with suggested practices for continued engagement.

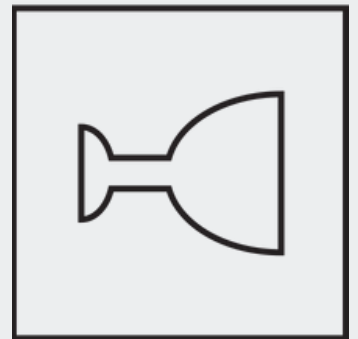
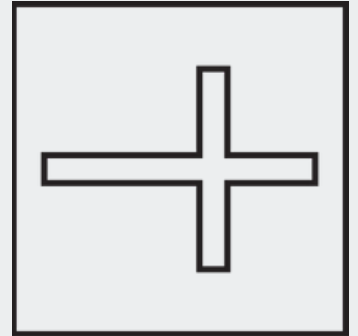
While Foursquare Path is not written as a membership class for local churches, it may serve as a beneficial supplement to membership for those who have established faith in Christ

but are joining a Foursquare church and are interested in learning the foundational beliefs. The framework of Foursquare Path allows participants to learn foundational theology, engage in practices designed to put learning into action, and discuss and reflect on how their learning can and should impact their lives moving forward. Foursquare Path is designed to create a balanced approach to discipleship that is focused on engaging the head, heart, and hands of the participants.

The benchmarks for this project focused on the quality of the materials as well as theological content and outcomes. It was important in developing Foursquare Path to produce content that would be challenging, yet understandable for someone with a typical high school learning/reading level. It is my hope that participants would be able to become Journey Guides if they desired with little additional training. It is important to see that participants will be able to articulate the tenets of the Foursquare Gospel. However, it is of paramount interest in measuring the success of Foursquare Path that participants will be able to articulate and demonstrate spiritual growth because of their engagement. The goal of Foursquare Path is not simply to make Foursquare church members, but to make healthy followers of Jesus.

## **Presentation of the Project**

# FOURSQUARE PATH



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# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## FOURSQUARE PATH FACILITATION

*A discipleship Journey through the Foursquare Gospel. It is recommended that Journey Groups be limited to no more than 12 people. The ideal group size would be 3-6 people with a Journey Guide. This will allow for a small-group dynamic that will allow for discussion during each gathering, increase felt-safety for participants, and encourage sharing and accountability.*

### **Session 1 - ESSENTIALS**

#### **1 Meeting – 1 hour in length**

*Be sure to give a Participant Guide to each person in attendance.*

*Take a moment to review the content on the next page with the group :  
WELCOME + OVERVIEW*



# WELCOME + OVERVIEW



## Welcome to Foursquare Path!

What you hold in your hands is more than a book! It is meant to be a Road Map for you and your journey group as you travel the Foursquare Path.

Along with your Guide and your group, you are taking the first steps on a journey of discovery that is designed to help you grow in your understanding of and relationship with Jesus. In other words, Foursquare Path is all about discipleship!

Disciple is an ancient word for a student. When Jesus called His 12 disciples, He was inviting them to follow and learn from Him as their rabbi, or teacher. If you joined Foursquare Path to learn more about Jesus, then you are also a disciple! Modern day disciples of Jesus are those people who are committed to learning the teachings and ways of living taught by Jesus, the ultimate teacher.

If a disciple is a student, then discipleship is how a disciple learns. Some people say that discipleship is a class, but actually, it is more of a relationship. In Foursquare Path we call discipleship a journey with Jesus. It is not something you learn to do; it is somebody you learn to become. Discipleship is the journey of growing as a disciple of Jesus.

Foursquare Path a resource designed to help you on your journey as a disciple of Jesus. It is not everything you need to know about Jesus...FAR FROM IT! Foursquare Path is about the beginning of your journey.

We believe that the greatest source of discipleship and spiritual growth is Jesus Himself, which is why Path is not only designed to be a series of lessons about Jesus but a journey with Him.

What you and your Journey Group will learn here is built on the foundation of what we call The Foursquare Gospel.

Now, if you don't already know what that means, don't worry, your Path Guide will introduce that in just a moment, and our hope is that by the end of your journey, you won't just know it, you'll have discovered what it looks like for you to live it.

# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 1 - ESSENTIALS (cont.)

*Read the next page: A NOTE ABOUT YOUR JOURNEY GUIDE*

*Take time to introduce yourself. It is recommended to create a contact sheet to encourage communication amongst participants.*

*Share the following content: WHAT TO EXPECT FROM FOURSQUARE PATH*

**The model of Foursquare Path is designed to give you a chance to learn about Jesus in your head, heart, and hands. It is very important that you learn new information about Jesus. Head knowledge matters. But it is vital that you get a chance to learn in more ways than just hearing information. Foursquare Path is designed to allow you to learn truth about Jesus, consider how that information might impact your life, practice ways of responding to Jesus, and reflecting together with friends about what your practice teaches you along the way. The goal is that by the time you reach the end of Foursquare Path, you will not simply know about Jesus, but you will know how to live with Him.**

*Review: STEPS*

*Mention to participants that a full PATH MAP is available at the back of the book if they would like to chart their progress.*



A man with a beard and a woman with curly hair are hiking up a rocky trail. The man is wearing a dark jacket over a light green shirt and has a blue backpack. The woman is wearing a light blue denim shirt and dark pants. They are both smiling and holding hands as they climb. The background shows a bright, hazy sky and some rocky terrain.

## A NOTE ABOUT YOUR GUIDE AND GROUP

Their entire job is to help you finish this journey!

If at any point along the way you feel stuck, confused, or just need someone to talk to, reach out to your Guide! They will be available to listen and pray with you, help you find answers in Scripture, and if needed, connect you with any other kind of help you might need.

Lean into your relationships with your Guide and your Group! Share your contact information, follow each other on social media, cheer each other on as often as you can, and be there to pick each other up as often as it's needed (*it will be needed!*)

You are not on this journey alone!

# STEPS

Each phase, or leg of this journey is designed to take place over the course of two weeks which will help you take four specific steps:

## **STEP ONE: TEACHING**

Gather with your Journey Group to learn about the specific characteristic of Jesus you will be learning about.

## **STEP THREE: FIRESIDE CHAT**

You will gather with your Journey Group again for a time in the Word and conversation about how what you have learned will impact your life.

## **STEP TWO: ACTION STEPS**

- At the end of each teaching session, you will be encouraged to share a “next step” on your path that you would like to take in connection with that week’s focus.
- These could be a personal commitment, or something you plan to do with or for someone else.

## **STEP FOUR: REFLECTION**

- As you end each leg of your journey you will have a chance to update or recommit to your action steps for another week.
- Your Guide will also encourage you to take some personal time during the coming week to reflect on what you’ve learned.
- What new understanding do you have about God, yourself, or how you can partner with Him in the world?
- What questions do you still have?
- It will be best if you plan to write your reflections down in the Reflections pages provided for you.

# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 1 - ESSENTIALS (cont.)

Gathering the essentials for every hiking trip is important, and this session is our opportunity to orient you to the Path.

### So what *exactly* is Foursquare Path?

A 10- week discipleship journey focused on the identity of Jesus while building community between yourself and your Journey Group (your hiking buddies)

- Because just as community is a vital part of every hike, it is vital to every discipleship journey


One of the most essential elements of this journey is the stories that each member of this Journey Group will bring and develop along the way. So let's take time now to share some of our essentials as we take the first step to build our community of travelers.

*Now, ask for participation*

**If you feel comfortable, we would love to hear:**

- Your name
- A little bit of your story & why you're here
- And what you're hoping to get out of Foursquare Path

# ESSENTIALS OF FOURSQUARE PATH



A 10- week discipleship journey  
focused on the identity of Jesus while  
building community between yourself  
and your Journey Group

# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 1 - ESSENTIALS (cont.)

Before we begin this journey, there is something important that you should know. The Foursquare Church is just one of the many Christian denominations (or, a group of churches who share beliefs) in the world. While our goal is to equip you as a follower of Jesus, we are using the foundational teachings of the Foursquare Church as a framework.

As your Journey Guide, I am about to show you a short video to introduce you to the Foursquare Church. Then we will take a few minutes to answer the questions below. Feel free to work with your Journey Group! If you would like to watch this video again later, you can use the QR code available on the page.

Show this video:

<https://vimeo.com/foursquare/foursquarename>

### **Journey Group Discussion Questions:**

**1) What was the name of the founder of the Foursquare Church?**

*Aimee Semple McPherson*

**2) During what decade was the Foursquare Church launched?**

*1920s*

**3) What was the meaning of the word *Foursquare* in those days?**

*Solid, balanced*

**4) You saw four images that each represent something we believe about Jesus. What were they, and what do they each represent?**

- **1. Cross - Jesus is our Savior**
- **2. Dove - Jesus is our Baptizer with the Holy Spirit**
- **3. Chalice - Jesus is our Healer**
- **4. Crown - Jesus is our Soon Coming King**



# WHAT IS FOURSQUARE?

## JOURNEY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1) What was the name of the founder of the Foursquare Church?

2) During what decade was the Foursquare Church launched?

3) What was the meaning of the word Foursquare in those days?

4) You saw four images that each represent something we believe about Jesus. What were they, and what do they each represent?

○ \_\_\_\_\_ - Jesus is our \_\_\_\_\_

○ \_\_\_\_\_ - Jesus is our \_\_\_\_\_

○ \_\_\_\_\_ - Jesus is our \_\_\_\_\_

○ \_\_\_\_\_ - Jesus is our \_\_\_\_\_

Before we begin this journey, there is something important that you should know. The Foursquare Church is just one of the many Christian denominations in the world. While our goal is to equip you as a follower of Jesus, we are using the foundational teachings of the Foursquare Church as a framework. Your Journey Guide is about to show you a short video to introduce you to the Foursquare Church. Before you move on to your next step in this session, take a few minutes to answer the questions below. Feel free to work with your Journey Group! If you would like to watch this video again later, you can use the QR code on this page.



# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## **Session 1 - ESSENTIALS (cont.)**

*Review next session's scheduled date and time. Remind them to bring their Participant Guide.*

*Pray for the group.*

*Dismiss.*



The term “Foursquare” stands for the  
four-fold ministry of



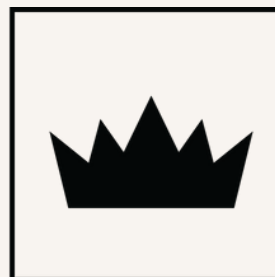
Jesus  
Christ as  
the Savior  
(Rom.  
10:9)



Baptizer  
with the  
Holy Spirit  
(Luke 3:16)



Healer  
(1 Pet.  
2:24)



Coming  
King  
(Acts 1:11)



# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 2 - JESUS AS SAVIOR, TEACHING

### ***1 Meeting – 1 hour in length***

*Supplies needed: communion elements, equipment to show a video*

*Welcome everyone to the session.*

*Pray.*

*Begin by reading the first two pages of SESSION 2 - JESUS AS SAVIOR*

# SESSION 2

*Jesus as Savior*



“



*For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.*

*John 3:16 CSB*

During this session, travelers will move through interactive material designed to teach the foundational theology around this core belief that Jesus is our Savior.

You will learn:

- Why a Savior is needed
- How the Old Testament helps us understand the saving work of Jesus
- Why death and bloodshed are required for salvation
- How and why Jesus' death offers us forgiveness for sins
- How to receive that forgiveness
- How believing that Jesus is your Savior should impact your life



# SESSION 2 - JESUS AS SAVIOR

Have you ever been lost? It can be disorienting, and even terrifying!

Imagine for a moment that you and your Journey Group have set out on a long hike. The kind of hike we might call an adventure. You have a destination in mind, and you've cleared out your schedules to be gone for as many days as it takes to make it to your goal. You packed everything you thought you would need for an extended hike in the wilderness. You packed a map, food, tents, sleeping bags, and your trusty flashlight, and set off with your friends for the adventure of a lifetime!

As you set off on the path, everyone's mood is high. Your Journey Group is excited and feeling confident. A few days into your epic adventure, you've pushed through sore muscles, and found a pace that works for you and you're all feeling confident about reaching your goal.

But then disaster strikes! A storm comes out of nowhere. Not just any storm. The ground is flooded, your Journey Group is forced to run to high ground, and when everything settles, you are together, but you are lost. The map you were trusting to get you to your destination is ruined and useless. Team morale feels like it can only be described as afraid and hopeless. All your attempts to find the path fail. You are lost. Not just a little bit; but really lost. Life threateningly lost.

That hike represents your life. The reality for every one of us is that no matter how well we think we have prepared to live a successful life, we all end up lost.



# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

17

## Session 2 - JESUS AS SAVIOR, TEACHING (cont.)

*Instruct the group to be ready to fill in answers on the next page.*

If God were to set the destination for your life, this would be it: holiness. In Leviticus 19:2 God gives this simple, but important instruction to His people: "You must be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy". To be holy means to be morally and spiritually excellent.

Now, God is not just saying be morally good. His intention is for you to be morally perfect. Which, for the record, is impossible! Every one of us has the same issues with being perfect. We find ourselves either doing things God would not do OR failing to do things that God would do.

*Answer key: God's intention is for us to be morally perfect, which is impossible.*

Think back to your epic adventure. Imagine now that rather than a freak storm that got you lost, it was your own fault. You didn't lose the map, but at a strategic fork in the path you chose not to follow the map. You made the wrong decision and found yourself lost in the wilderness with no hope of finding your way out.

Certainly there are times when storms seem to come up in our actual lives that leave us feeling lost. But the kind of lost we're dealing with here is a result of our own choices. We fail at being perfect. Scripture has a name for that kind of failure.

When the Apostle Paul wrote about this in Romans he called it "sin". Romans 3:23 (NLT) "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard." And in Romans 6:23 Paul says that "the wages of sin is death". When Paul uses the word "death" here, he is describing eternal separation from God. We often call that eternal death "Hell". The eternal death that we call Hell is the destination of every lost person.

God set a great destination for our lives, but because we failed to be perfect, we will all end up lost and dead, forever. Now, you might be wondering, Why death? That seems pretty harsh for failing to be perfect. And THAT is a great question!

Think about it this way: All offenses have consequences; and the severity of the offense depends on who you offend. We see this idea play out every day in our modern world. No one goes to jail for a single speeding ticket. But if you commit a major crime, you will earn yourself a much more significant punishment. People who commit crimes are called offenders, because they have committed an offense against the law of the land.

When we sin we have also committed an offense. In this case, an offense against the Perfect God and Creator of the universe. To sin is to commit an offense against the Law of God; which says that we must be perfect as He is perfect. Since sin is an offense against the ultimate authority (God), we owe the ultimate consequence (death). Sin keeps us trapped in a cycle that leads to death. Every person who has ever lived has sinned, has failed to be perfect, and through their sin has found themselves lost and on their way to death. And since the only way to clear our debt (or to get back on the path that leads to life) is to be perfectly holy, we are in desperate need of a savior!

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**If God were to set the destination for your life, this would be it:**

---

*"You must be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy" Leviticus 19:2*

To be holy means:

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God's intention is for us to be

---

which is \_\_\_\_\_.

*"For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard."  
Romans 3:23*

*"For the wages of sin is death."  
Romans 6:23*

**Why death? That seems pretty harsh!**

To sin is to commit an offense against the Law of God; which says that we must be perfect as He is perfect. Since sin is an offense against the ultimate authority (God), we owe the ultimate consequence (death). Sin keeps us trapped in a cycle that leads to death. Every person who has ever lived has sinned, has failed to be perfect, and through their sin has found themselves lost and on their way to death. And since the only way to clear our debt (or to get back on the path that leads to life) is to be perfectly holy, we are in desperate need of a savior!

# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 2 - JESUS AS SAVIOR, TEACHING (cont.)

*Read the instructions on the next page and give participants a moment to personally respond.*

# SESSION 2 - JESUS AS SAVIOR

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One of the first things a hiker must do before they can be rescued, is admit that they are lost. It is important to be able to name the ways that we have become lost so that we can prepare ourselves to receive the help that God offers.

Take a moment and write a brief confession statement. This is not meant to make you feel shame, but to invite you to honestly come to terms with the reality that you share the same great need for a savior as every other human.



# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 2 - JESUS AS SAVIOR, TEACHING (cont.)

The good news is that there is a savior! His name is Jesus! John wrote about this savior in what is easily one of the most famous passages in the entire Bible:

John 3:16-18 (CSB) "For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Anyone who believes in him is not condemned, but anyone who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God."

You're back in the wilderness; lost. Suddenly a man appears and tells you that his Dad sent him to come and rescue you. He tells you that if you keep searching for the path on your own you will die, but if you trust and follow him that you will live. Then he begins to walk off in the exact opposite direction that you thought the path would be found.

This is exactly what Jesus does for us! Jesus came to the world to show us the way back to the path of life. He came to save us; and he said that the way we receive salvation is to believe in Him. Now, the next question to ask is: "Believe in what exactly?" John offers us an answer in another letter that he wrote:

1 John 1:7-9 (CSB) "If we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say, "We have no sin," we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

John says that what we are believing is that Jesus' blood cleanses us from our sin. To understand that we need to talk about sheep and blood. Long before Jesus came to save the world, God set up a binding agreement (called a covenant) with the Jewish people. He chose this limited group of people to demonstrate a limited form of relationship. This original covenant had a system in place for people to have their sins covered so that they could be counted as holy. Leviticus 17:11 (NLT) "I have given you the blood on the altar to purify you, making you right with the Lord. It is the blood, given in exchange for a life, that makes purification possible."

The Jews understood that without blood, there was no life; or that the power of life was in the blood. God told them that if innocent blood was shed, that blood would atone for (pay for) a person's sin. Since death was the price for their sin, something needed to die in their place so they could be considered holy before God.

So God's system required His people to sacrifice perfect (or spotless) lambs. That lamb would die in their place, covering the cost of death because of the people's sins. The blood of the lamb would purify the people. So the blood of a sacrificial lamb represented salvation for the Jewish people!

But this old system wasn't strong enough. Since the sacrifice for human sin was not human death, more blood had to be shed every year! So God sent a lamb who's sacrifice would set up a new system that would last forever! Consider what Peter wrote about this:

1 Peter 1:18-20 (NLT) "For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver. 19 It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. 20 God chose him as your ransom long before the world began, but he has now revealed him to you in these last days."



## SESSION 2 - JESUS AS SAVIOR



**"For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Anyone who believes in him is not condemned, but anyone who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God."**

**JOHN 3:16-18**

***Jesus came to the world to show us the way back to the path of life.***

He came to save us; and He said that the way we receive salvation is to believe in Him. Now, the next question to ask is:

***"Believe in what exactly?"***

"If we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say, "We have no sin," we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:7-9 (CSB)

To understand this we need to talk about sheep and blood....

# SESSION 2 - JESUS AS SAVIOR

Long before Jesus came to save the world, God set up a binding agreement called a \_\_\_\_\_. This original system provided a way for the Jewish people to have their sins covered and be counted as holy.

***"I have given you the blood on the altar to purify you, making you right with the Lord. It is the blood, given in exchange for a life, that makes purification possible."***

***Leviticus 17:11 (NLT)***

The Jews understood that the power of \_\_\_\_\_ was in the \_\_\_\_\_.

God's plan was that shedding innocent blood would \_\_\_\_\_ (pay for) a person's sin.

Since death was the price for their sin, something needed to die in their place so they could be considered holy before God.

God's system required His people to sacrifice perfect (or spotless) lambs. That lamb would die in their place, covering the cost of death because of the people's sins. The blood of the lamb would \_\_\_\_\_ the people. So the blood of a sacrificial lamb represented \_\_\_\_\_!

But since this old system of animal sacrifice for human sin was not strong enough, more blood had to be shed \_\_\_\_\_!

So God sent a lamb who's sacrifice would set up a new system that would last forever!



# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 2 - JESUS AS SAVIOR, TEACHING (cont.)

In other words, this was God's plan all along!

The author of Hebrews explains in detail here:

Hebrews 10:1-5 & 9-10 (TPT) "The old system of living under the law presented us with only a faint shadow, a crude outline of the reality of the wonderful blessings to come. Even with its steady stream of sacrifices offered year after year, there still was nothing that could make our hearts perfect before God. 2-3 For if animal sacrifices could once and for all eliminate sin, they would have ceased to be offered and the worshipers would have clean consciences. Instead, once was not enough so by the repetitive sacrifices year after year, the worshipers were continually reminded of their sins, with their hearts still impure. 4 For what power does the blood of bulls and goats have to remove sin's guilt? 5 So when Jesus the Messiah came into the world he said, "Since your ultimate desire was not another animal sacrifice, you have clothed me with a body that I might offer myself instead! .... 9 And then he said, "God, I will be the One to go and do your will." So by being the sacrifice that removes sin, he abolishes animal sacrifices and replaces that entire system with the new covenant. 10 By God's will we have been purified and made holy once and for all through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus, the Messiah!"

Jesus died to save mankind from sin once and for all! He was able to be the spotless lamb for us because He never sinned. He willingly became the needed human sacrifice, and His blood paid the price forever because He is not only a human being. He is also something much more than that. Jesus is the eternal God, so His sacrifice is strong enough to last forever!

So now let's get back to your question. You asked: "What exactly do we believe that gives us eternal life?" Well this is it! This is the work that Jesus did to change our status from lost to found! So that when we die we will not experience the hell of eternal separation from God, but we will be counted as holy people, and welcomed into eternal life. We call that life "Heaven."



## SESSION 2 - JESUS AS SAVIOR

Jesus died to save mankind from sin once and for all!

- He was able to be the \_\_\_\_\_ for us because He never \_\_\_\_\_.
- He \_\_\_\_\_ became the needed human sacrifice, and His blood paid the price \_\_\_\_\_.
- Jesus' sacrifice lasts forever because He is the \_\_\_\_\_, so His sacrifice is strong enough to last forever!

Remember the question we were answering:

**"What exactly do we believe that gives us eternal life?"**

Well this is it! This is the work that Jesus did to change our status from lost to found! So that when we die we will not experience the hell of eternal separation from God, but we will be counted as holy people, and welcomed into eternal life. We call that life "Heaven."

*"The old system of living under the law presented us with only a faint shadow, a crude outline of the reality of the wonderful blessings to come. Even with its steady stream of sacrifices offered year after year, there still was nothing that could make our hearts perfect before God. For if animal sacrifices could once and for all eliminate sin, they would have ceased to be offered and the worshipers would have clean consciences. Instead, once was not enough so by the repetitive sacrifices year after year, the worshipers were continually reminded of their sins, with their hearts still impure. For what power does the blood of bulls and goats have to remove sin's guilt? So when Jesus the Messiah came into the world he said, "Since your ultimate desire was not another animal sacrifice, you have clothed me with a body that I might offer myself instead! .... And then he said, "God, I will be the One to go and do your will." So by being the sacrifice that removes sin, he abolishes animal sacrifices and replaces that entire system with the new covenant. By God's will we have been purified and made holy once and for all through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus, the Messiah!"*

Hebrews 10:1-5, 9-10 TPT

# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 2 - JESUS AS SAVIOR, TEACHING (cont.)

### **BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE!**

There is another vitally important truth to understand about Jesus as our Savior! Jesus' death means we are not lost anymore. When we are found in Jesus, our sins are forgiven, and God calls us holy. But God does not just stop at *finding* us in the wilderness through the death of Jesus. He goes so far as to give us a way to get all the way back on to the path. Not only to be found holy in our own death, but to be fully alive right now because Jesus is also alive!

Paul teaches that it's actually not enough that Jesus *died*:

1 Corinthians 15:16-23 (NLT) "If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. 18 In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! 19 And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world. 20 But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died. 21 So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man. 22 Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life. 23 But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when he comes back."

Jesus was raised from the dead to set the tone for us. His death secured forgiveness of sins. His resurrection secured eternal life. And those are both available to anyone who wants to be saved by Him! Paul wrote this simple and clear instruction for how we can access that salvation: Romans 10:9 (NLT) "If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Jesus did not just come to save a handful of people. He came for everyone, and that includes you! Have you responded to this Good News? Do you believe in your heart? Have you confessed out loud that you believe Jesus is Lord?

If you believe that, then Jesus' blood covers your sins! You have a trail story of how Jesus found and saved you in your wilderness of sin. In the church world, we call that trail story your testimony.

*Share your own "trail story"/testimony with the group. Encourage volunteers within the group to share if they are comfortable.*



## SESSION 2 - JESUS AS SAVIOR

### ***BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE!***

God does not just stop at finding us in the wilderness. He gives us a way to get all the way back on to the path. Not only to be found holy in our own death, but to be

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**1 Corinthians 15:16-23 (NLT)**

Jesus was raised from the dead to set the tone for us. His

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\_\_\_\_\_. And those are both available to anyone who wants to be saved by Him!

*“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”*  
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# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 2 - JESUS AS SAVIOR, TEACHING (cont.)

Ending the session / Responses

**When something significant happens on any journey it is important to mark the moment and respond appropriately. In this session we have covered a lot of very significant ground in discovering why we call Jesus our Savior. Here are a few ways that you can respond right now before this session is over. You can continue this into the next week as you engage your Action Steps.**

Responses

**If you have never officially placed your faith in Jesus, this is the most important first step you could possibly take! If you are ready to begin your journey with Jesus now, take a moment with your Journey Group and pray. Here is an example of a simple prayer you can pray.**

- **Jesus, I believe that you are the Son of God and that you died and rose again to save me from my sins. Thank you for your love and your saving work. I put my faith in you and submit the rest of my life to walk the path with you as my leader and Savior. Amen.**

**For centuries, Christians have commemorated the saving work of Jesus through a practice called communion. During His last meal with His disciples, Jesus shared bread and wine which He said represented His broken body and shed blood. As we eat and drink together in the practice of communion we are marking the saving work of Jesus in a fresh way in our own lives. Communion is a powerful way to pause and thank God for salvation, to recalibrate ourselves to the way of Jesus, and to renew our commitment to living under the grace and leadership of Jesus our Savior.**

- Journey guides can lead the group through the following practice:
  - **Luke 22:19 (NLT) “He took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”**
    - Pray and lead group to eat
  - **Luke 22:20 (NLT) “After supper he took another cup of wine and said, “This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you.”**
    - Pray and instruct group to drink

# SESSION 2 - JESUS AS SAVIOR

**If you have never officially placed your faith in Jesus, this is the most important first step you could possibly take! If you are ready to begin your journey with Jesus now, take a moment with your Journey Group and pray. Here is an example of a simple prayer you can pray.**

*Jesus, I believe that you are the Son of God and that you died and rose again to save me from my sins. Thank you for your love and your saving work. I put my faith in you and submit the rest of my life to walk the path with you as my leader and Savior. Amen.*

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- *“He took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” Luke 22:19 (NLT)*
- *“After supper he took another cup of wine and said, “This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you.” Luke 22:20 (NLT)*

**WE REMEMBER  
JESUS'  
SACRIFICE FOR  
OUR SINS BY  
TAKING  
COMMUNION**



# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 2 - JESUS AS SAVIOR, TEACHING (cont.)

Action Steps:

Here are three possible action steps that may be helpful for you to engage before our next session. You can try one or all of them.

1. **If you just made a decision to become a follower of Jesus, welcome to the family! Take some time this week to talk about your decision with someone you know who has been walking with Jesus for some time. Your Journey Guide can be a great option.**
  - a. **Share what led up to your decision and how you are feeling now.**
  - b. **Ask any questions you have about being a follower of Jesus.**
2. **Develop your trail story. Your testimony is one of the most powerful tools you have in sharing the Good News about Jesus with other people. Take time this week to write out the major elements of your story.**
  - a. **Here is a basic outline you can follow:**
    - i. **My life before I met Jesus (When telling your story, spend the least amount of time here)**
    - ii. **How I met Jesus**
    - iii. **My life with Jesus (Spend the most time telling this part of your story. The power of a trail story is in how your life is different because Jesus saved you.)**
  - b. **Pray, asking God to give you the opportunity and courage to share your story with people who do not yet know Jesus. You might already have some people in mind. If not, ask God to lead you and give you opportunities as you keep walking with Him.**
3. **Take communion again. Jesus did not tell us how often He expects us to take communion. He simply told us that as often as we do it, to remember His sacrificial work. Whether you do this every day, or just one other time before our next session, take a moment to pause in the practice of communion again this week.**

Pray. Dismiss Class.

# SESSION 2 - JESUS AS SAVIOR

## ACTION STEPS

Try one or all of these this week:

# 1.

- **TALK ABOUT YOUR DECISION** If you just made a decision to become a follower of Jesus, welcome to the family! Take some time this week to talk about your decision with someone you know who has been walking with Jesus for some time. Your Journey Guide can be a great option.
  - Share what led up to your decision and how you are feeling now.
  - Ask any questions you have about being a follower of Jesus.

# 2.

- **DEVELOP YOUR TRAIL STORY** Your testimony is one of the most powerful tools you have in sharing the Good News about Jesus with other people. Take time this week to write out the major elements of your story.
  - Here is a basic outline you can follow:
    - My life before I met Jesus (When telling your story, spend the least amount of time here)
    - How I met Jesus
    - My life with Jesus (Spend the most time telling this part of your story. The power of a trail story is in how your life is different because Jesus saved you.)
  - Pray, asking God to give you the opportunity and courage to share your story with people who do not yet know Jesus. You might already have some people in mind. If not, ask God to lead you and give you opportunities as you keep walking with Him.

# 3.

- **COMMUNION** Take communion again. Jesus did not tell us how often He expects us to take communion. He simply told us that as often as we do it, to remember His sacrificial work. Whether you do this every day, or just one other time before our next session, take a moment to pause in the practice of communion again this week.



# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 3 - JESUS AS SAVIOR, FIRESIDE CHAT

### ***1 Meeting – 1 hour in length***

*Welcome the participants back and open in prayer.*

*Feel free to ask for any updates or stories about how the week has been engaging their action steps. Then read the introduction and move through the guided Scripture reading.*



## SESSION 3 | JESUS AS SAVIOR

# FIRESIDE CHAT

### PURPOSE

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The purpose of a fireside chat is to teach you how to dialogue about your faith-walk with Jesus. During a fireside chat, we will resist the urge to do theological work and focus our attention on the impact that walking the path with Jesus should have on our everyday lives. We will begin with a guided Scripture reading and then move on to a practical discussion about how the person of Jesus changes the way we live.

# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 3 - JESUS AS SAVIOR, FIRESIDE CHAT

*Walk participants through the following steps. This could take up to 20 minutes, depending on participant engagement and sharing.*

- *Ready:*
    - *Invite participants to sit quietly for a minute or two to set their focus on God and prepare themselves to hear from His Word.*
  - *Read:*
    - *Encourage participants that as you move through the text to pay close attention to what words and ideas draw your attention in unique ways.*
    - *Read the passage slowly and carefully....Take your time.*
  - *Reflect:*
    - *Invite participants to reflect on the word or phrase that stood out to them.*
      - *You might want to read the passage again while they are reflecting; or simply allow them to reflect in silence.*
    - *Encourage participants to ask the Holy Spirit:*
      - *"What do I need to know, or be, or do in light of the text?"*
      - *"What does this mean for my life today?"*
  - *Respond:*
    - *Encourage participants to write their thoughts, feelings, questions, and/or prayers*
    - *This is the perfect time to share reflections with the group*
      - *Honor the person sharing by truly listening to them.*
      - *Resist the urge to fix or correct anything you hear.*
      - *Honor the Scriptures by allowing God's Word to do the heavy lifting.*
    - *If at any point reflections require conversation:*
      - *You can always follow up later...*
      - *Or encourage them to speak with a pastor or Christian counselor.*
  - *Rest:*
    - *Invite participants to rest in God's presence as you read the Scripture slowly again.*
    - *Lead the group through taking five slow, deep breaths*
    - *Conclude this time with a word of prayer, thanking God for His Word and asking for His blessing over the Journey Group*
-



# SESSION 3 - JESUS AS SAVIOR

## GUIDED READING

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*“Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy. So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body. And “don’t sin by letting anger control you.” Don’t let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a foothold to the devil. If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need. Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them. And do not bring sorrow to God’s Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.”*

*Ephesians 4:21-32 (NLT)*

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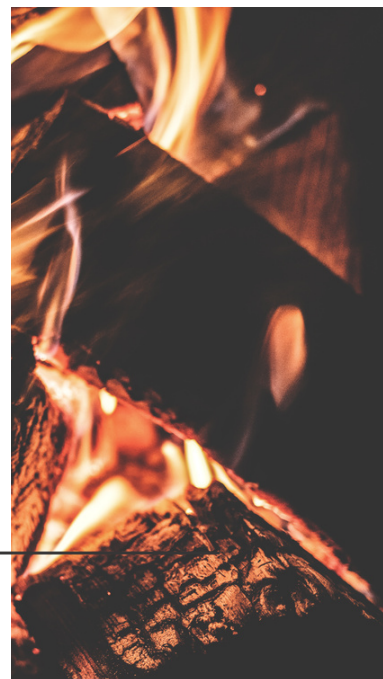


# SESSION 3 - JESUS AS SAVIOR

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Use this page to record your reflections and response to this passage.

- **Ready:**
  - Sit quietly, setting your focus on God and preparing to hear from His Word.
- **Read:**
  - Listen as your Journey Guide reads the passage.
  - Pay close attention to what words and ideas draw your attention in unique ways.
- **Reflect:**
  - Write the word or phrase that stood out to you.
  - Ask the Holy Spirit:
    - "What do I need to know, or be, or do in light of the text?"
    - "What does this mean for my life today?"
  - How does this passage speak to how Jesus your Savior changes your life?
- **Respond:**
  - Write your thoughts, feelings, questions, and/or prayers. (Use additional paper if needed)
  - If you feel comfortable, share your reflections with the group
    - Honor the person sharing by truly listening to them.
    - Resist the urge to fix or correct anything you hear.
    - Honor the Scriptures by allowing God's Word to do the heavy lifting.
- **Rest:**
  - Rest in God's presence as the Scripture is read again.
  - Take five slow, deep breaths





# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 3 - JESUS AS SAVIOR, FIRESIDE CHAT

*The rest of this session will be spent in group discussion around open-ended questions. Depending on the size of the Journey Group, you may want to consider breaking them into smaller groups of three to five people. If you create small-groups, encourage those groups to stay together for all of the fireside chats throughout Foursquare Path. This will strengthen relationships and make room for more open conversations.*

*Feel free to join one of the groups for their discussion, but make sure to allow the participants to do the heavy lifting. When you feel that the discussion is coming to an end, or as the hour is up, draw everyone's attention to their Reflection page, read those instructions, and then close the session in prayer.*

# SESSION 3 - JESUS AS SAVIOR

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



- How is my life different because of what I believe about Jesus as my Savior?
- How does Jesus want to change/impact my day-to-day life?
- A common and important word among followers of Jesus is accountability. Why do you think this is important, and what will you do to ensure that you have healthy accountability relationships?
- If Jesus offers salvation to everyone, how does He want me to engage with other people who do not know Him?
  - Thinking about your personal relationships, who are those people who do not yet know Jesus?
  - What can you offer them to invite them into a relationship with Jesus?
- What practical actions will I commit to take in light of Jesus being my Savior?

# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 3 - JESUS AS SAVIOR, FIRESIDE CHAT

The next time we gather we will be moving on to a new topic, but you may have more on your mind as you think about Jesus being your Savior. Use this section to write any reflections, thoughts, or burning questions that you have. What new understanding do you have about God, yourself, or how you can partner with Him in the world? What you write here might serve as inspiration for deeper study about Jesus after your Foursquare Path journey comes to an end. If you would like to spend the next week practicing your action steps again, this might also be a good place to mark that decision and write about your experience.

Pray

Dismiss

# SESSION 3 - JESUS AS SAVIOR

## REFLECTION

- As you end each leg of your journey you will have a chance to update or recommit to your action steps for another week.
- Your Guide will also encourage you to take some personal time during the coming week to reflect on what you've learned.
- What new understanding do you have about God, yourself, or how you can partner with Him in the world?
- What questions do you still have?
- It will be best if you plan to write your reflections down in this Reflection portion provided for you.





# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## **Session 4 - JESUS AS BAPTIZER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, TEACHING**

*1 Meeting – 1 hour in length*

*Supplies needed: Coffee beans, coffee grinder, a way to brew coffee (optional if you would like to demonstrate. If not, pictures are provided)*

*Welcome everyone to the session.*

*Pray.*

*Begin by reading the first page of Session 4*

# SESSION 4

*Jesus as Baptizer with the Holy Spirit*



“

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.” Acts 1:8 (NLT)*



During this session travelers will move through interactive material designed to teach the foundational theology around this core belief that Jesus is our Baptizer with the Holy Spirit.

You will learn:

- Who the Holy Spirit is
- The difference between water baptism and the baptism of the Holy Spirit
- Why we call Jesus our Baptizer with the Holy Spirit
- About the work of the Holy Spirit in and through our lives



# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 4 - JESUS AS BAPTIZER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, TEACHING

You're back on the path to life and everyone is feeling excited about following Jesus for the rest of the journey. One night, sitting around the fire for dinner, Jesus announces that he is leaving. Everyone is stunned and afraid. The only reason you're on the path is because Jesus saved you. Now you have to travel on your own again?

Jesus explains that it's actually good that he is leaving because he is going on ahead to prepare everything for your arrival at your final destination. He says that the road ahead is full of danger, but that he is going to send someone else to help you along the way. This is exactly what happened to Jesus' original disciples. In the Gospel of John, Jesus tells his friends well in advance that he is going to leave them. But he also tells them that there is a plan for them to be okay while he's gone.

John 14:1-3 (NLT) "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. 2 There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? 3 When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am."

John 14:25-26 (NLT) "I am telling you these things now while I am still with you. 26 But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you."

John 16:7 (NLT) "In fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you."

John 16:12-14 (NLT) "There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now. 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. 14 He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me."



# SESSION 4 - JESUS AS BAPTIZER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

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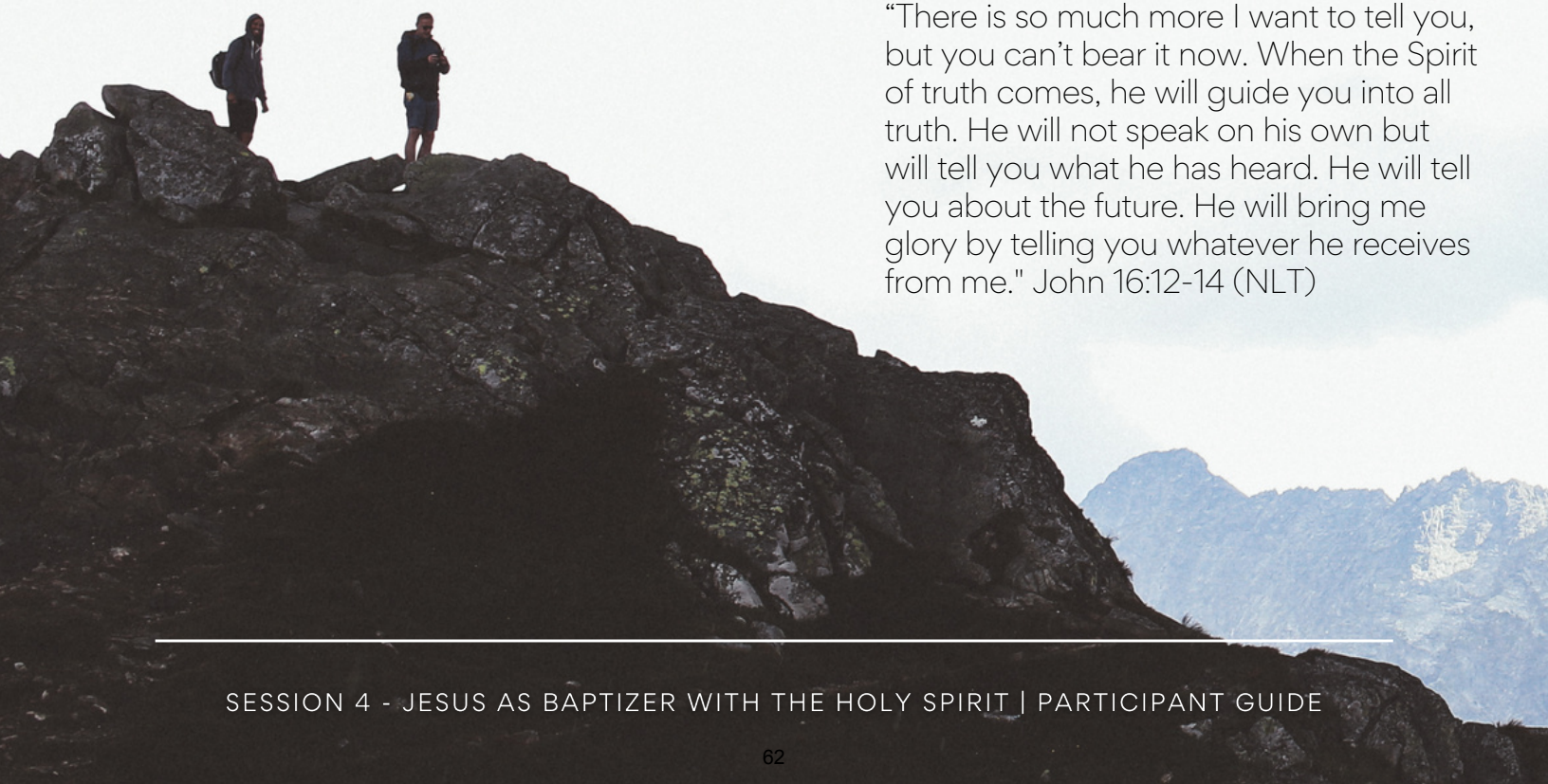
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"Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am." John 14:1-3 (NLT)

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# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 4 - JESUS AS BAPTIZER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, TEACHING (cont.)

Jesus is gone. You and your friends are once again alone on the path. For all the encouraging Jesus tried to do, you've got questions! What is a Holy Spirit? That sounds creepy! How is this a good thing? You look around to your Journey Group and everyone is left scratching their heads.

There is no doubt that the Holy Spirit is one of the more mysterious and misunderstood figures in Scripture. Thankfully though, there are answers to our questions! It would take much more than one session to give a full answer to the questions about the Holy Spirit. So while this will be an introduction to this topic, by the end of this leg of your journey you will be well on your way to understanding why Jesus sending the Holy Spirit is such good news. Let's begin by answering the fundamental question:

**Who is the Holy Spirit?**

The Greek word used in the Bible when referring to the Holy Spirit is Pneuma, which means "Wind; Breath; Spirit." The Bible also presents the Holy Spirit in the form of fire (Acts 2:3) and a dove (Mark 1:9-11). It is also helpful to clarify what the Holy Spirit is NOT. The Holy Spirit is not just an idea or feeling; the ghost form of God; the source of superpowers; or only for super Christians.

Scripture teaches that the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity. Trinity is a word that is not found in the Bible, but is used to describe the unique nature and relationship of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. God values relationship so much that He chooses to reveal Himself to us in the context of relationship. While each member of the Trinity has distinct characteristics and roles, each member is fully God. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are three beings in one and together they are God.

Now, it is also important to understand that when we say that the Holy Spirit is a person, we are not saying that he is a human being in the same way that Jesus became human. Remember that Jesus became 100% human while remaining 100% God in order to fulfill the requirement of human sacrifice for our sins and create a new covenant that would last forever.

The Holy Spirit is a person in that he has a personality, intellect, emotion, and will. Do not think of the Holy Spirit as a person with a human body, but a spiritual being who shares equally in all the divine attributes of the Father and the Son. So when we refer to the Holy Spirit, we say He and Him, rather than it, because The Holy Spirit is God.

We are also not saying that He is the 3rd Person of the Trinity because he comes in third place after the other two. The Trinity is very difficult to understand, but it matters that we do not separate each member of the Trinity from the others. The Holy Spirit is just as much God Himself as the Father and the Son. We refer to Him as the third Person of the Trinity simply because He is typically listed third in Scripture. Resist any temptation to ascribe a lesser or greater honor to the Father, the Son, or the Holy Spirit. They are each God, and together they are, always have been, and always will be God Himself. The Bible is full of evidence that the Holy Spirit is a distinct individual while simultaneously being 100% God.



# Who is the Holy Spirit?<sup>48</sup>

*The Greek word used in the Bible for the Holy Spirit is \_\_\_\_\_, which means “\_\_\_\_\_”; \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_.”*

*The Bible also presents the Holy Spirit in the form of \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 2:3) and a \_\_\_\_\_ (Mark 1:9-11).*

*The Holy Spirit is NOT just an \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_; the \_\_\_\_\_ form of God; the source of \_\_\_\_\_; or only for \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Scripture teaches that the Holy Spirit is the \_\_\_\_\_.*

*“Trinity” describes the unique nature and relationship of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Each member of the Trinity has distinct characteristics and roles, each member is \_\_\_\_\_. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are three beings in one and together they are God.*

*The Holy Spirit is a person in that he has a \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. He does not have a \_\_\_\_\_; He is a \_\_\_\_\_ who shares equally in all the divine attributes of the Father and the Son. We refer to the Holy Spirit as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, rather than \_\_\_\_\_, because The Holy Spirit is God.*

# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 4 - JESUS AS BAPTIZER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, TEACHING (cont.)

There is no such thing as a perfect illustration that captures the Trinity. However, illustrations can be helpful for our limited minds in trying to understand things that go far beyond our ability to comprehend. With that in mind, one helpful illustration for the identities and roles within the Trinity is found in coffee beans.

The bean represents the Father - The source of all life and power.

The grind represents the Son - The one sent to be crushed to give us access to the life within the bean.

The liquid represents the Holy Spirit - The one by whom we receive God's presence and power.

The weakness of this illustration is that the members of the Trinity never actually change their form, identity, or roles. While the bean becomes the grind and is brewed to become coffee, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have and always will be themselves, without a hint of change. The Father did not become the Son, and Jesus did not become the Holy Spirit. While Jesus was on earth, the Father and Holy Spirit were still in Heaven. However, even though this is not a perfect illustration, hopefully you will find it helpful in understanding the distinct roles of each of the three members of the Trinity who are each equally God with distinct personalities and functions.

## SESSION 4 - JESUS AS BAPTIZER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

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The one by whom we \_\_\_\_\_

God's \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

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# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 4 - JESUS AS BAPTIZER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, TEACHING (cont.)

The Holy Spirit is VERY active in Scripture!

He was there at the very beginning:

Genesis 1:1-2 (NLT) "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters."

He was there when Jesus launched His public ministry with water baptism:

Matthew 3:16-17 (NLT) "After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy."

He is there at the moment of salvation for every new believer:

1 Corinthians 3:16 (NLT) "Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you?"

Note: The phrase "in you" would best be translated "among you".

He also wants to fill every believer to empower our praise & our purpose:

Ephesians 5:18-19 (NLT) "Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, 19 singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts."

Acts 1:8 (NLT) "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

So, the Holy Spirit is not just some ethereal idea about God. He is not a badge of spiritual maturity. The Holy Spirit is God Himself, dwelling among & empowering every believer so that we can fulfill The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). In short, the Holy Spirit is the Reason we can partner with God's purpose.



# SESSION 4 - JESUS AS BAPTIZER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

52

## The Holy Spirit is VERY active in Scripture!

**He was there at the \_\_\_\_\_:**

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters." Genesis 1:1-2 (NLT)

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**He is there at the moment of \_\_\_\_\_**

**for every \_\_\_\_\_:**

"Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you?" 1 Corinthians 3:16 (NLT)

**He also wants to \_\_\_\_\_ every believer to \_\_\_\_\_ our praise & our purpose:**

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**THE HOLY SPIRIT IS NOT JUST SOME ETHEREAL IDEA ABOUT GOD. HE IS NOT A BADGE OF SPIRITUAL MATURITY. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD HIMSELF, DWELLING AMONG & EMPOWERING EVERY BELIEVER SO THAT WE CAN FULFILL THE GREAT COMMISSION (MATTHEW 28:18-20). IN SHORT, THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE REASON WE CAN PARTNER WITH GOD'S PURPOSE.**

# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 4 - JESUS AS BAPTIZER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, TEACHING (cont.)

There is one final and important point to understand about the Holy Spirit before moving on to the next question. When Jesus tells his disciples that he will send the Holy Spirit (John 14:16), most modern English versions of the Bible will translate that word to advocate, comforter, or counselor. The original Greek word that John wrote there was *paraklétos*. We would pronounce this word in English as *paraclete*.

In John's day, Greek soldiers would often go into a battle in pairs. They would call their battle-partner their *paraclete*. Each soldier took on the responsibility to fight side-by-side or back-to-back with their *paraclete*, making sure they stayed upright, moving in the right direction, and were protected from attack. When Jesus said He would send the Holy Spirit, He said He would send the *Parakletos*; the Helper who will stand with us in battle and walk with us on the path. So even though it may seem that Jesus has abandoned the party, sending the Holy Spirit is a promise to continue to be with us and help us along the way.

As you walk along the path, there will be moments when the ground feels too steep or too slippery for you to continue walking. It is the Holy Spirit who comes alongside you as a friend with the strength to hold you up, and the wisdom to tell you what steps to take next. The Holy Spirit will remind you of the things Jesus has said and will help you understand the map.

There will be moments in your real life where circumstances feel too difficult to overcome. The Holy Spirit will explain the Bible to you and give you wisdom. He will help you stand and empower you to keep walking. That is who the Holy Spirit is! Our comforter. Our Helper. Our *Paraclete*.

# SESSION 4 - JESUS AS BAPTIZER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

54

When Jesus tells his disciples that he will send the Holy Spirit (John 14:16), He used the Greek word *paraklétos*. In English this word becomes *paraclete*.

Greek soldiers would often go into a battle in pairs. They would call their battle-partner their paraclete. Each soldier took on the responsibility to fight side-by-side or back-to-back with their paraclete, making sure they stayed upright, moving in the right direction, and were protected from attack. When Jesus said He would send the Holy Spirit, He said He would send the Parakletos; the Helper who will stand with us in battle and walk with us on the path.

**So even though it may seem that Jesus has abandoned the party, sending the Holy Spirit is a promise to continue to be with us and help us along the way.**

As you walk along the path, there will be moments when the ground feels too steep or too slippery for you to continue walking. It is the Holy Spirit who comes alongside you as a friend with the strength to hold you up, and the wisdom to tell you what steps to take next. The Holy Spirit will remind you of the things Jesus has said and will help you understand the map.

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# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## **Session 4 - JESUS AS BAPTIZER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT,** **TEACHING (cont.)**

PAUSE FOR INTERACTIVE PIECE

*Encourage students to write/talk about specific places in their life where they would benefit from the help of the Holy Spirit*



# SESSION 4 - JESUS AS BAPTIZER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

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Write/talk about specific places in your life where you would benefit from the help of the Holy Spirit



# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 4 - JESUS AS BAPTIZER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, TEACHING (cont.)

Back on the path, the initial feelings of loss and confusion after Jesus left begin to fade away. Knowing that Jesus is sending someone to help you on your journey is really encouraging, but an important question hangs in the air with your Journey Group. You're out in the middle of the wilderness and Jesus made it sound like you would not actually see this helper that is coming. How exactly is God going to send this helper?

Now we can begin to answer the question: What is the Baptism with the Holy Spirit? Let's first define the term baptism. The Greek word baptizo means, "To dip or plunge, to overwhelm." The picture is to submerge a person; not only for the purpose of cleansing, but until true change takes place. To be baptized is to submerge your life in a loving relationship with God. To submit your life to a cleansing and changing.

In Foursquare churches we practice two kinds of baptism: baptism with water, and the baptism with the Holy Spirit. The distinction between the two is seen by the element used in each baptism.

Water baptism is about cleansing from the past. We were sinners who have placed our faith in Jesus. We are submerged in water to represent the death and resurrection of Jesus and our own spiritual death to sin and new life in Christ. We are now identified as cleansed disciples of Jesus.

Holy Spirit baptism is about empowering for the future. We are called to go and make disciples (Matthew 28:19). But we are told not to go until we have the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4). After being baptized we will then receive power to be witnesses of Jesus wherever we go (Acts 1:8). The Holy Spirit baptized (or Spirit filled) person will also receive gifts for ministry (1 Corinthians 12).

Holy Spirit baptism is what empowers us to partner with God. We call that partnership "ministry". He does that empowering work in at least three ways:

1) The Holy Spirit empowers us with great gifts for great purposes!

1 Corinthians 12:7-11 (NLT) "A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. 8 To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. 9 The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. 10 He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages,



# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 4 - JESUS AS BAPTIZER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, TEACHING (cont.)

while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. 11 It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have."

2) The Holy Spirit empowers us with understanding & wisdom because He is the best teacher ever!

John 16:12-14 (NLT) "There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now. 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. 14 He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me."

The Holy Spirit teaches us truth (explaining the Word of God) and He teaches us about the future (which we call prophecy).

3) The Holy Spirit helps us to speak, to pray, and to praise

Luke 12:11-12 (NLT) "And when you are brought to trial in the synagogues and before rulers and authorities, don't worry about how to defend yourself or what to say, 12 for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what needs to be said." And He will also give us heavenly language for prayer and praise!

1 Corinthians 14:5 (NLT) "I will pray in the spirit, and I will also pray in words I understand. I will sing in the spirit, and I will also sing in words I understand."

Romans 8:26-27 (NLT) "And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. 27 And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will."

So, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is the overwhelming of the Christian life with the presence and power of the Holy Spirit for the purpose of empowering them to understand, and share the Gospel, demonstrate the power & love of Jesus, and to make new disciples.

As you walk along the path, you will not be able to see the Holy Spirit in the same way that the first disciples saw Jesus. But you will be able to see His work. The next time you come to a fork in the path, like the one that got you lost in the wilderness before, it will be the Holy Spirit who will give you wisdom to take the next right step. When your emotions begin to get the best of you on the way, it will be the Holy Spirit who brings you peace and comfort, and will remind you of the loving and encouraging Word of God.

# SESSION 4 - JESUS AS BAPTIZER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT 59



Back on the path, the initial feelings of loss and confusion after Jesus left begin to fade away. Knowing that Jesus is sending someone to help you on your journey is really encouraging, but an important question hangs in the air with your Journey Group. You're out in the middle of the wilderness and Jesus made it sound like you would not actually see this helper that is coming. How exactly is God going to send this helper?

## What is the Baptism with the Holy Spirit?

Let's first define baptism. The Greek word baptizo means, "\_\_\_\_\_."  
\_\_\_\_\_." To be baptized is to \_\_\_\_\_  
your life in a \_\_\_\_\_ with God. To submit your life to  
a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

In Foursquare churches we practice two kinds of baptism: baptism with water, and the baptism with the Holy Spirit. The distinction between the two is in the \_\_\_\_\_ used in each baptism.

Water baptism is about \_\_\_\_\_. We were sinners who have placed our faith in Jesus. We are submerged in water to represent the death and resurrection of Jesus and our own spiritual death to sin and new life in Christ. We are now identified as cleansed disciples of Jesus.

Holy Spirit baptism is about \_\_\_\_\_. We are called to go and make disciples (Matthew 28:19). But we are told not to go until we have the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4). After being baptized we will then receive power to be witnesses of Jesus wherever we go (Acts 1:8). The Holy Spirit baptized (or Spirit filled) person will also receive gifts for ministry (1 Corinthians 12).

# SESSION 4 - JESUS AS BAPTIZER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT 60

Holy Spirit baptism is what empowers us to partner with God. We call that partnership "\_\_\_\_\_".

He does that empowering work in at least three ways:

## 1) The Holy Spirit empowers us with great \_\_\_\_\_ for great \_\_\_\_\_!

"A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have." 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 (NLT)

## 2) The Holy Spirit empowers us with \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ because He is the best teacher ever!

"There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me." John 16:12-14 (NLT)

The Holy Spirit teaches us truth (explaining the Word of God) and He teaches us about the future (which we call prophecy).



# SESSION 4 - JESUS AS BAPTIZER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

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3) The Holy Spirit helps us to \_\_\_\_\_, to \_\_\_\_\_, and to \_\_\_\_\_.

“And when you are brought to trial in the synagogues and before rulers and authorities, don’t worry about how to defend yourself or what to say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what needs to be said.”  
Luke 12:11-12 (NLT)

And He will also give us heavenly language for prayer and praise!

“I will pray in the spirit, and I will also pray in words I understand. I will sing in the spirit, and I will also sing in words I understand.”  
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“And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God’s own will.” Romans 8:26-27 (NLT)

So, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Christian life with the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit for the purpose of \_\_\_\_\_ them to \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ the power & love of Jesus, and to \_\_\_\_\_.

As you walk along the path, you will not be able to see the Holy Spirit in the same way that the first disciples saw Jesus. But you will be able to see His work. The next time you come to a fork in the path, like the one that got you lost in the wilderness before, it will be the Holy Spirit who will give you wisdom to take the next right step. When your emotions begin to get the best of you on the way, it will be the Holy Spirit who brings you peace and comfort, and will remind you of the loving and encouraging Word of God.

# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 4 - JESUS AS BAPTIZER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, TEACHING (cont.)

We've covered a lot of ground already, but our third question still remains: *Why is it that we call Jesus the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit?* Again, there is a great deal that could be written here, but we will offer four answers rooted in Scripture to lay a foundation.

### 1) Because John said He would do it:

Mark 1:7-8 (NLT) "John announced: 'Someone is coming soon who is greater than I am —so much greater that I'm not even worthy to stoop down like a slave and untie the straps of his sandals. 8 I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit!'"

### 2) Because Jesus told us He would do it:

John 16:7 (NLT) "It is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you."

### 3) Because He actually did it!

John 20:20-23 (NLT) "As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! 21 Again he said, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.' 22 Then he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.'"

Acts 2:1-4 (NLT) "On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. 2 Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. 3 Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. 4 And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability."

### 4) Because He still does it for more than just the Apostles:

In Acts 10 Peter was sent by God to share the Good News about Jesus with a household of Gentiles. This was a big deal at the time because Jewish Christians thought Jesus had only come to save them. Peter was the first person to preach the Gospel to non-Jewish people. And look at the result:

Acts 10:44-46 (NLT) "Even as Peter was saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the message. 45 The Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles, too. 46 For they heard them speaking in other tongues and praising God."



# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 4 - JESUS AS BAPTIZER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, TEACHING (cont.)

Both Jesus and His disciples taught that Jesus would be the one who will baptize His followers with the Holy Spirit. And clearly, Jesus made good on that promise! So every time we see that a person receives the baptism of the Holy Spirit we can know that Jesus was at work in initiating that baptism. After that, the power experienced and exemplified in the life of that believer is the work of the Holy Spirit.

So the Holy Spirit *is* God. Baptism with the Holy Spirit is what empowers us to partner with God to make disciples. The Holy Spirit gives us power (Acts 1:8), and Jesus gives us the Holy Spirit. *That* is the reason we call Jesus the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit.

# SESSION 4 - JESUS AS BAPTIZER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

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We've covered a lot of ground already, but our third question still remains:  
*Why do we call Jesus the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit?*

Four answers rooted in Scripture:

1) Because \_\_\_\_\_:

"John announced: 'Someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not even worthy to stoop down like a slave and untie the straps of his sandals. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit!'" Mark 1:7-8 (NLT)

2) Because \_\_\_\_\_:

"It is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you." John 16:7 (NLT)

3) Because He \_\_\_\_\_!

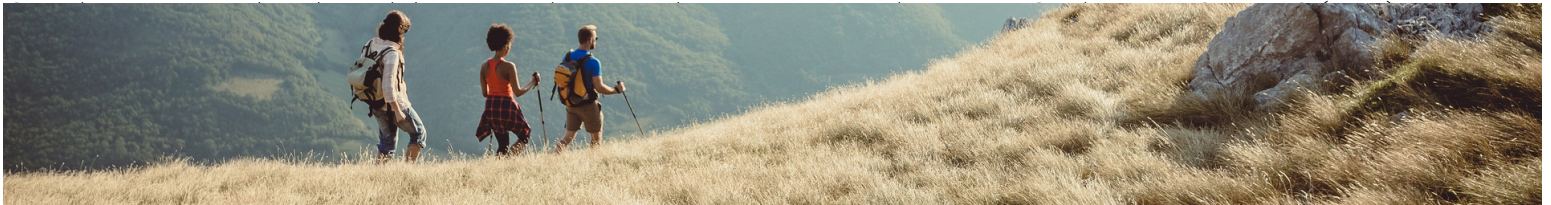
"As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! 21 Again he said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." John 20:20-23 (NLT)

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**So the Holy Spirit is God. Baptism with the Holy Spirit is what empowers us to partner with God to make disciples. The Holy Spirit gives us power (Acts 1:8), and Jesus gives us the Holy Spirit. That is the reason we call Jesus the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit.**

# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 4 - JESUS AS BAPTIZER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, TEACHING (cont.)

This leaves us with an important question as travelers on the path to life. If Jesus says that partnering with Him requires the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and the benefits of this baptism are so great, why would anyone not want this gift?

There are 3 ways to respond to a teaching like this...but you must commit to them in order.

1) Give your life to Jesus and begin to live as one of His disciples.

Become a Disciple of Jesus and begin to live with the awareness that you are loved by God, and commit your life to loving Him and loving people in His name. If you have not yet made that decision, go back to session one and walk through the teaching about Jesus being our Savior. Otherwise it will be impossible to receive anything else from Him.

Be baptized in water. This is an important step in your journey with God. Water baptism is a declaration of the work Jesus has done in your life and a commitment to join the local church in partnerships of learning and ministering the Gospel. It is a practice infused with rich meaning and demonstrates to God and your community that you are a serious follower of Jesus.

Scripture does not clearly state that water baptism is a required step to take before receiving the baptism with the Holy Spirit. However, resistance to practices like water baptism point to a deeper resistance to the general work of God in and through a person's life and will limit your ability to fully receive all that God has in His heart for you, including the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

2) Receive the filling, empowering, and gifting of the Holy Spirit.

This is done simply. Just receive it! If Jesus is the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit, then it wouldn't make sense for us to go to anyone other than Him to get it. Now, notice that the instruction is not to ask. There is never a moment in Scripture where receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a long, drawn-out process. No follower of Jesus is denied this baptism who wants it. Jesus offers this baptism as a gift to everyone who believes in Him, from the moment they confess their belief.

# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 4 - JESUS AS BAPTIZER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, TEACHING (cont.)

Scripture shows people who believe in Jesus are baptized (sometimes called ‘filled’) with the Holy Spirit while they listen to the preached word of God and as other Spirit-filled people lay hands on them in prayer. Many Christians believe that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is simply part of the package of salvation; that all Christians are automatically Spirit-filled. While there is enough Scriptural evidence to argue that Holy Spirit baptism often happens separately from salvation, we serve a God who is more interested in our receiving all He has for us than our structures and systems for delivery.

The point of all of that is to say this: If you are a disciple of Jesus, the baptism of the Holy Spirit has already been extended to you. All you have to do is tell Jesus that you receive it! You can certainly receive this baptism in personal prayer on your own. However, since God chooses to represent Himself in community, it is best to engage moments like this in the same way. Thankfully, you have a Journey Group who can join with you in a moment of prayer today!

### 3) Live your life on purpose and with power.

Finally, there really is not much point in receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit without the intention to live differently as a result. Imagine a receiver in the NFL sprinting down the field, into the end-zone, and celebrating a touchdown, only to reveal that he never actually had the ball. Now imagine the same receiver catching a pass, being wide open, and then just standing still. Not a chance! Both of these scenarios are ridiculous! And yet this is exactly what happens in the lives of Christians who resist the baptism of the Holy Spirit and those who receive it but then do nothing different as a result.

The Holy Spirit changes us. From living in our own strength to being filled with the very power of God. From trying to know right from wrong in human terms to having access to the very wisdom of God. From serving the world in our limited ability, to being empowered to minister miracles in His name. From praying only what we know to ask in our understanding, to speaking the language of Heaven. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a gift from God, ministered to us by Jesus, and is designed to revolutionize our lives!



# SESSION 4 - JESUS AS BAPTIZER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

3 ways to respond to a teaching like this...but you must commit to them in order.

## **1) GIVE YOUR LIFE TO JESUS AND BEGIN TO LIVE AS ONE OF HIS DISCIPLES.**

- Become a Disciple of Jesus.
- Begin to live with the awareness that you are loved by God.
- Commit your life to loving God and loving people in His name.
- Get baptized in water.

## **2) RECEIVE THE FILLING, EMPOWERING, AND GIFTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

This is done simply. Just receive it!

Notice that the instruction is not to ask. No follower of Jesus is denied this baptism who wants it. Jesus offers this baptism as a gift to everyone who believes in Him, from the moment they confess their belief. If you are a disciple of Jesus, the baptism of the Holy Spirit has already been extended to you. All you have to do is tell Jesus that you receive it!

## **3) LIVE YOUR LIFE ON PURPOSE AND WITH POWER.**

Finally, there really is not much point in receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit without the intention to live differently as a result. The Holy Spirit changes us.

- From living in our own strength to being filled with the very power of God.
- From trying to know right from wrong in human terms to having access to the very wisdom of God.
- From serving the world in our limited ability, to being empowered to minister miracles in His name.
- From praying only what we know to ask in our understanding, to speaking the language of Heaven.

***The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a gift from God,  
ministered to us by Jesus, and is designed to  
revolutionize our lives!***





# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## **Session 4 - JESUS AS BAPTIZER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, TEACHING (cont.)**

Here are three possible action steps that may be helpful for you to engage before our next session. You can try one or all of them.

### **1) My water baptism date: \_\_\_\_\_**

If you have not been water baptized yet, use this week to schedule a date. Your Journey Guide would love to help you with that! Once you have celebrated your water baptism, come back here and mark the moment by filling in the date!

### **2) Receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit**

If you have not received baptism with the Holy Spirit, you can pray with your Journey Guide right now!

#### Special note for Journey Guides

*Praying for someone to receive baptism with the Holy Spirit is easy. It is important that you are a spirit-filled person, and beyond that, here is a simple prayer as you lay hands on the person you are praying with. Note: As you see [name] in this prayer, say the person's name*

*Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we believe that You are excited to give all of Yourself to us. Thank you for the gifts You give us. Jesus, You said that You would send the Holy Spirit to be our helper. I ask that You would fill [name] with Your Holy Spirit now. Demonstrate Your presence and power in and through their life as they live filled with Your Spirit. In Jesus' name, amen.*

### **3) Spiritual Gifts test?**

**The Holy Spirit is passionate about partnering with you in ministry, and He has given you spiritual gifts to equip you for the work! Speak with your Journey Guide about getting access to the spiritual gifts assessment that your local church uses. Once you know what your spiritual gifts are, ask God to lead you into opportunities to be a blessing to people in His name.**

# SESSION 4 - JESUS AS BAPTIZER

## WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

### ACTION STEPS

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Try one or all of these this week:

1.

#### **MY WATER BAPTISM DATE: \_\_\_\_\_**

If you have not been water baptized yet, use this week to schedule a date. Your Journey Guide would love to help you with that! Once you have celebrated your water baptism, come back here and mark the moment by filling in the date!

2.

#### **RECEIVE THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

If you have not received baptism with the Holy Spirit, you can pray with your Journey Guide right now!

3.

#### **SPIRITUAL GIFTS TEST**

The Holy Spirit is passionate about partnering with you in ministry, and He has given you spiritual gifts to equip you for the work! Speak with your Journey Guide about getting access to the spiritual gifts assessment that your local church uses. Once you know what your spiritual gifts are, ask God to lead you into opportunities to be a blessing to people in His name.





# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 5 - JESUS AS BAPTIZER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, FIRESIDE CHAT

***1 Meeting – 1 hour in length***

*Welcome the participants back and open in prayer.*

*Feel free to ask for any updates or stories about how the week has been engaging their action steps. Then read the introduction and move through the guided Scripture reading.*



## SESSION 5 | JESUS AS BAPTIZER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

# FIRESIDE CHAT

## PURPOSE

The purpose of a fireside chat is to teach you how to dialogue about your faith-walk with Jesus. During a fireside chat, we will resist the urge to do theological work and focus our attention on the impact that walking the path with Jesus should have on our everyday lives. We will begin with a guided Scripture reading and then move on to a practical discussion about how the person of Jesus changes the way we live.



# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 5 - JESUS AS BAPTIZER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, FIRESIDE CHAT

*Walk participants through the following steps. This could take up to 20 minutes, depending on participant engagement and sharing.*

- *Ready:*
    - *Invite participants to sit quietly for a minute or two to set their focus on God and prepare themselves to hear from His Word.*
  - *Read:*
    - *Encourage participants that as you move through the text to pay close attention to what words and ideas draw your attention in unique ways.*
    - *Read the passage slowly and carefully....Take your time.*
  - *Reflect:*
    - *Invite participants to reflect on the word or phrase that stood out to them.*
      - *You might want to read the passage again while they are reflecting; or simply allow them to reflect in silence.*
    - *Encourage participants to ask the Holy Spirit:*
      - *"What do I need to know, or be, or do in light of the text?"*
      - *"What does this mean for my life today?"*
  - *Respond:*
    - *Encourage participants to write their thoughts, feelings, questions, and/or prayers*
    - *This is the perfect time to share reflections with the group*
      - *Honor the person sharing by truly listening to them.*
      - *Resist the urge to fix or correct anything you hear.*
      - *Honor the Scriptures by allowing God's Word to do the heavy lifting.*
    - *If at any point reflections require conversation:*
      - *You can always follow up later...*
      - *Or encourage them to speak with a pastor or Christian counselor.*
  - *Rest:*
    - *Invite participants to rest in God's presence as you read the Scripture slowly again.*
    - *Lead the group through taking five slow, deep breaths*
    - *Conclude this time with a word of prayer, thanking God for His Word and asking for His blessing over the Journey Group*
-

## SESSION 5 - JESUS AS BAPTIZER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

### GUIDED READING

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*“It is best for you that I go away, because if I don’t, the Advocate won’t come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God’s righteousness, and of the coming judgment. The world’s sin is that it refuses to believe in me. Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more. Judgment will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged. “There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can’t bear it now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, ‘The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.’”*

*John 16:7-15 (NLT)*

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# SESSION 5 - JESUS AS BAPTIZER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Use this page to record your reflections and response to this passage.

- **Ready:**
  - Sit quietly, setting your focus on God and preparing to hear from His Word.
- **Read:**
  - Listen as your Journey Guide reads the passage.
  - Pay close attention to what words and ideas draw your attention in unique ways.
- **Reflect:**
  - Write the word or phrase that stood out to you.
  - Ask the Holy Spirit:
    - "What do I need to know, or be, or do in light of the text?"
    - "What does this mean for my life today?"
  - How does this passage speak to how baptism with the Holy Spirit changes your life?
- **Respond:**
  - Write your thoughts, feelings, questions, and/or prayers. (Use additional paper if needed)
  - If you feel comfortable, share your reflections with the group
    - Honor the person sharing by truly listening to them.
    - Resist the urge to fix or correct anything you hear.
    - Honor the Scriptures by allowing God's Word to do the heavy lifting.
- **Rest:**
  - Rest in God's presence as the Scripture is read again.
  - Take five slow, deep breaths



# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## **Session 5 - JESUS AS BAPTIZER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT,** **FIRESIDE CHAT**

*The rest of this session will be spent in group discussion around open-ended questions. Depending on the size of the Journey Group, you may want to consider breaking them into smaller groups of three to five people. If you create small-groups, encourage those groups to stay together for all of the fireside chats throughout Foursquare Path. This will strengthen relationships and make room for more open conversations.*

*Feel free to join one of the groups for their discussion, but make sure to allow the participants to do the heavy lifting. When you feel that the discussion is coming to an end, or as the hour is up, draw everyone's attention to their Reflection page, read those instructions, and then close the session in prayer.*

*Journey Group Discussion questions:*

- *How does the Holy Spirit change/impact my day-to-day life?*
- *How does the Holy Spirit help me in my prayer life?*
- *What new understanding about God has the Holy Spirit helped me discover in Scripture?*
- *What practical actions will I commit to take in light of the baptism with the Holy Spirit?*



## SESSION 5 - JESUS AS BAPTIZER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



- How does the Holy Spirit change/impact my day-to-day life?
- How does the Holy Spirit help me in my prayer life?
- What new understanding about God has the Holy Spirit helped me discover in Scripture?
- What practical actions will I commit to take in light of the baptism with the Holy Spirit?

# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 5 - JESUS AS BAPTIZER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, FIRESIDE CHAT

The next time we gather we will be moving on to a new topic, but you may have more on your mind as you think about Jesus being your Baptizer with the Holy Spirit. Use this section to write any reflections, thoughts, or burning questions that you have. What new understanding do you have about God, yourself, or how you can partner with Him in the world? What you write here might serve as inspiration for deeper study about Jesus after your Foursquare Path journey comes to an end. If you would like to spend the next week practicing your action steps again, this might also be a good place to mark that decision and write about your experience.

Pray

Dismiss

## SESSION 5 - JESUS AS BAPTIZER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

### R E F L E C T I O N

- As you end each leg of your journey you will have a chance to update or recommit to your action steps for another week.
- Your Guide will also encourage you to take some personal time during the coming week to reflect on what you've learned.
- What new understanding do you have about God, yourself, or how you can partner with Him in the world?
- What questions do you still have?
- It will be best if you plan to write your reflections down in this Reflection portion provided for you.







# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## **Session 6 - JESUS AS HEALER, TEACHING**

*1 Meeting – 1 hour in length*

*Welcome everyone to the session.*

*Pray.*

*Begin by reading the first and second page of Session 6*

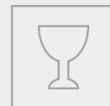
# SESSION 6

*Jesus as Healer*



“

*“He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed.” 1 Peter 2:24 (NLT)*



During this session, travelers will move through interactive material designed to teach the foundational theology around this core belief that Jesus is our Healer.

You will learn:

- About the power of Jesus to heal
- About the kinds of healing that Jesus offers
- How Jesus ministers healing through His people

# SESSION 6 - JESUS AS HEALER

You've been saved and set on the path to life! You are filled with the Holy Spirit and empowered for the road ahead! Everything is looking up, and so are you, when out of nowhere your foot snags on a root that has grown out of the ground. You fall forward and feel an excruciating pain in your ankle. You look down and can tell immediately that it is broken. No more walking for you! You are in desperate need of healing.

As you go through life, there will undoubtedly be moments where you need healing. And not just physical healing. As human beings with spiritual and social lives, we will find ourselves broken in all kinds of ways. Thankfully, Jesus is a Healer; in fact, He is the ultimate Healer!





# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 6 - JESUS AS HEALER, TEACHING (cont.)

When someone or something is healed we mean that they have been made whole, healthy, and free of injury. When Isaiah 53:5 says "by His wounds we are healed," the Hebrew word translated healed is rapha. Rapha means - "To mend (by stitching); to cure; to repair; to thoroughly make whole." God uses this word as one of His own names when He says "I AM The Lord Who Heals you" (Exodus 16:26), which we translate to the name Jehovah-Rapha.

Not only does Scripture describe God as the ultimate source of healing, it paints a holistic picture of the kind of healing He provides. Jesus is interested in ministering healing to us and through us for every area of our lives. He is the source of our physical, spiritual, and relational healing.

Healing happens at two distinct paces. First, healing often takes place in our lives and our bodies over time. In fact, God has designed our bodies to heal themselves, so you could argue that all health is the aim of God's divine order. Second, there is a kind of healing that happens instantaneously, by the power of the Holy Spirit. For the sake of clarity, we will refer to the first pace as natural healing and the second we will specifically qualify as miraculous healing.

**INSERT DISCUSSION QUESTION HERE:**

Can you name a time that you have experienced or seen God heal someone?



# Types of healing

*When someone or something is healed we mean that they have been made*

\_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ ,

*and* \_\_\_\_\_ .

*Isaiah 53:5 says "by His wounds we are healed," The Hebrew word translated healed is \_\_\_\_\_ which means - "To mend (by stitching); to cure; to repair; to thoroughly make whole." God calls Himself Jehovah-Rapha in Exodus 16:26 "I AM*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ " \_\_\_\_\_ .

*Scripture paints a holistic picture of healing. God is the source of our \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ , and \_\_\_\_\_ healing.*

*Healing happens at two distinct paces.*

- *First, natural healing often takes place over time.*
- *Second, miraculous healing happens \_\_\_\_\_ .*

# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 6 - JESUS AS HEALER, TEACHING (cont.)

Jesus is interested in ministering both natural and miraculous healing to and through every area of our lives. When we say that Jesus is our Healer, we mean that He is the source of our physical, spiritual, and relational healing. Before we see how Jesus accomplishes this work, let's take a closer look at each of these arenas of healing.

### 1. Physical Healing

Miraculous physical healing was a regular occurrence throughout Jesus' ministry. Matthew 9:35 (NLT) "Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages of that area, teaching in the synagogues, and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And He healed every kind of disease and illness."

Matthew 15:29-30 (NLT) "Jesus returned to the Sea of Galilee and climbed a hill and sat down. 30 A vast crowd brought to him people who were lame, blind, crippled, those who couldn't speak, and many others. They laid them before Jesus, and he healed them all."

Mark 6:56 (NLT) "Wherever he went—in villages, cities, or the countryside—they brought the sick out to the marketplaces. They begged him to let the sick touch at least the fringe of his robe, and all who touched him were healed."

Luke 4:38-40 (NLT) "After leaving the synagogue that day, Jesus went to Simon's home, where he found Simon's mother-in-law very sick with a high fever. "Please heal her," everyone begged. 39 Standing at her bedside, he rebuked the fever, and it left her. And she got up at once and prepared a meal for them. 40 As the sun went down that evening, people throughout the village brought sick family members to Jesus. No matter what their diseases were, the touch of his hand healed everyone."

Jesus clearly had the power to miraculously heal people's physical bodies. On top of that, He had the desire to do it as well! As if that was not enough, Jesus gave this same ministry of miraculous physical healing to His disciples.

Matthew 10:1 & 8 (NLT) "Jesus called his twelve disciples together and gave them authority to cast out evil spirits and to heal every kind of disease and illness. ... 8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy, and cast out demons. Give as freely as you have received!"

# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 6 - JESUS AS HEALER, TEACHING (cont.)

This same ministry still belongs to His disciples today! Listen to Mark's telling of the Great Commission:

Mark 16:15-18 (CSB) "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone. 16 Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned. 17 These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak in new languages. 18 They will be able to handle snakes with safety, and if they drink anything poisonous, it won't hurt them. They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed."

Now, this is not a command to go and prove the power of your faith by playing with snakes. It is a promise that the power of God will go with you, and minister through you, as you minister in His name. We minister physical healing by laying hands on the sick and praying in the name of Jesus. More on that later.

Physical healing is the supernatural releasing of power in and through the life of the believer for curing all types of illness. When we say that we believe Jesus is our Healer, we are saying that we absolutely believe that natural and miraculous physical healing is still a part of the ministry of Jesus and His Church around the world.

For clarity, healing never happens under our command, but by the will of Jesus and always in His way and timing. Our job is not to heal people. Our job is to pray. We create space for physical healing to happen and trust God's will is always for healing, regardless of the outcome that we are able to see with our eyes. This is important because physical healing is not the only kind of healing Jesus is interested in.

## 1. PHYSICAL HEALING

Miraculous physical healing was a regular occurrence throughout Jesus' ministry.

*"Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages of that area, teaching in the synagogues, and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And He healed every kind of disease and illness." Matthew 9:35 (NLT)*

See also:

- Matthew 15:29-30
- Mark 6:56
- Luke 4:38-40

Jesus gave this same ministry of miraculous physical healing to His disciples.

*"Jesus called his twelve disciples together and gave them authority to cast out evil spirits and to heal every kind of disease and illness. ... Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy, and cast out demons. Give as freely as you have received!" Matthew 10:1 & 8 (NLT)*

*"Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone. Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned. These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak in new languages. They will be able to handle snakes with safety, and if they drink anything poisonous, it won't hurt them. They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed." Mark 16:15-18 (CSB)*

We minister physical healing by \_\_\_\_\_ on the sick and praying in the name of Jesus. Physical healing is the supernatural releasing of \_\_\_\_\_ in and through the life of the believer for \_\_\_\_\_ all types of illness. Physical healing is still a part of the ministry of Jesus and His Church around the world.

*For clarity, healing never happens under our command, but by the will of Jesus and always in His way and timing. Our job is not to heal people. Our job is to pray. We create space for physical healing to happen and trust God's will is always for healing, regardless of the outcome that we are able to see with our eyes.*





# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 6 - JESUS AS HEALER, TEACHING (cont.)

### 2. Spiritual Healing

If physical healing covers our physical body, spiritual healing covers the rest of us. The parts of our lives that can be just as broken as our bodies, but often go unseen. When we say spiritual healing we are referring to healing of the mind, the emotions, and the human spirit. Jesus made it clear that this is His heart for us one day when He stood up to read Scripture in the synagogue:

Luke 4:17-21 (NLT) "The scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where this was written: 18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, 19 and that the time of the Lord's favor has come." 20 He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant, and sat down. All eyes in the synagogue looked at him intently. 21 Then he began to speak to them. "The Scripture you've just heard has been fulfilled this very day!"

Jesus absolutely wants us to be healed, but His healing work is not limited to our physical bodies. In Romans 12:2, Paul challenges followers of Jesus not to "copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think". He then goes on to describe the ways that believers should use the gifts they have to help one another in the context of what appears to be a healthy community.

One common name for that healthy community of believers is the Church. Every local church should be a safe place for broken people to be welcomed and loved, pointed to the open arms of Jesus, and nurtured back to complete health. Spiritual healing requires creating a safe space to heal from abuse, bad or dangerous theology, and demonization. The ministry of deliverance from demonic oppression and possession (demonization) absolutely falls under the umbrella of spiritual healing. As would healing from the spiritual damage that can be caused by bad and harmful theology.

Churches partner with Jesus to minister spiritual healing to people as we create space for this kind of healing to happen. This requires a commitment to: good theology, open hearts, and difficult conversations. The local church must be a place where it is safe to ask hard questions. A place where people can deconstruct any unhealthy theology they have been handed, and re-construct a healthy (or healed) understanding of God, His Word, and His Kingdom.

## 2. SPIRITUAL HEALING

If physical healing covers our physical body, spiritual healing covers the \_\_\_\_\_. The parts of our lives that can be just as broken as our bodies, but often go unseen. When we say spiritual healing we are referring to healing of the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus made it clear that this is His heart for us:

*"The scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where this was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the Lord's favor has come." He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant, and sat down. All eyes in the synagogue looked at him intently. Then he began to speak to them. "The Scripture you've just heard has been fulfilled this very day!" Luke 4:17-21 (NLT)*



In Romans 12:2, Paul challenges followers of Jesus not to “copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think”. He then goes on to describe the ways that believers should use the gifts they have to help one another in the context of what appears to be a \_\_\_\_\_.

One common name for that healthy community of believers is \_\_\_\_\_. Every local church should be a \_\_\_\_\_ for broken people to be welcomed and loved, pointed to the open arms of Jesus, and nurtured back to complete health. Spiritual healing requires creating a safe space to heal from \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

Churches partner with Jesus to minister spiritual healing to people as we create space for this kind of healing to happen. This requires a commitment to: good \_\_\_\_\_, open \_\_\_\_\_, and difficult \_\_\_\_\_. The local church must be a place where it is safe to \_\_\_\_\_. A place where people can \_\_\_\_\_ any unhealthy theology they have been handed, and \_\_\_\_\_ a healthy (or healed) understanding of God, His Word, and His Kingdom.

# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 6 - JESUS AS HEALER, TEACHING (cont.)

### 3. Relational Healing

God does not only want us to be healed in our physical and spiritual lives. He wants us to have healed relationships. Relational healing is that focus of healing that has to do with the way we engage other human beings and God Himself. Paul wrote about this more than once: Colossians 3:12-14 (NLT) "Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. 13 Make allowance for each other's faults and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. 14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony."

Philippians 2:1-4 (NLT) "Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? 2 Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. 3 Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. 4 Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too."

In Philippians 4, Paul even went so far as to call for two ladies to heal their relationship which was apparently wounded in some way. In The Message, Eugene Peterson put it this way: "I urge Euodia and Syntyche to iron out their differences and make up. God doesn't want his children holding grudges." We cannot say that we are healed people unless we are willing to do our own work of healing any of our broken relationships.

Of course, the most important manifestation of relational healing happens between us and God. This is the healing of the human soul, especially for those who are far from Him are brought near. Notices how Jesus ministers relational healing:

Mark 2:15-17 (CSB) "Levi invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. (There were many people of this kind among Jesus' followers.) 16 But when the teachers of religious law who were Pharisees saw him eating with tax collectors and other sinners, they asked his disciples, "Why does he eat with such scum?" 17 When Jesus heard this, he told them, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners."

Jesus was talking about relational healing here, not physical. Jesus is the doctor who comes to heal our broken relationship to God. Jesus' method for relational healing was relationship! He does it by reclining at the table with outsiders! There was and still is no one with whom Jesus would not recline in relationship. There is no one with whom Jesus would not long to experience a whole and healthy relationship.

INSERT DISCUSSION QUESTION HERE

Maybe a brief reflection space asking something like: Is there any area of your life or in the life of a person you know where the relational healing power of Jesus would be needed?

---

**3. Relational Healing**

Relational healing is that focus of healing that has to do with the way we engage \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other's faults and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony." Colossians 3:12-14 (NLT)*

*"Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too." Philippians 2:1-4 (NLT)*

We cannot say that we are healed people unless we are willing to do our own work of healing any of our broken relationships.

The most important manifestation of relational healing happens between \_\_\_\_\_ This is the healing of the \_\_\_\_\_, especially for those who are far from Him are brought near.

*"Levi invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. (There were many people of this kind among Jesus' followers.) But when the teachers of religious law who were Pharisees saw him eating with tax collectors and other sinners, they asked his disciples, 'Why does he eat with such scum?' When Jesus heard this, he told them, 'Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.'" Mark 2:15-17 (CSB)*

Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ who comes to heal our broken relationship to God. Jesus' method for relational healing was \_\_\_\_\_! He does it by reclining at the table with outsiders! There

was and still is no one with whom Jesus would not recline in relationship.

There is no one with whom Jesus would not long to experience a whole and healthy relationship.





# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 6 - JESUS AS HEALER, TEACHING (cont.)

So far, we have talked about the kinds of healing that Jesus makes possible. Keeping in mind that we have said multiple times that we do not heal people, it is time now to talk about why we call Jesus our Healer. There are at least three ways that we are healed by Jesus. We begin with an ancient prophecy, written 700 years before Jesus died on the cross, that tells us the first reason we call Jesus our Healer:

Isaiah 53:5 (NLT) “He was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed.”

## SESSION 6 - JESUS AS HEALER



**"He was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed."**

**ISAIAH 53:5 (NLT)**

*Why do we call Jesus our Healer?*

*There are at least three ways that we are healed by Jesus.*

# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 6 - JESUS AS HEALER, TEACHING (cont.)

### 1) We are healed by the stripes of Jesus

Isaiah was prophesying about the manner and impact of Jesus' death! That He would be rejected, scorned, and that His stripes (or wounds) would offer healing. Generations later, Peter quoted Isaiah 53 when writing to Christians going through suffering.

1 Peter 2:21-25 (NLT) "For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps. 22 He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone. 23 He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly. 24 He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed. 25 Once you were like sheep who wandered away. But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls."

Interestingly, Peter quotes Isaiah while talking about something MORE than physical healing. Jesus was wounded so we can be healed holistically. As we have seen above, Jesus offers complete healing. He paid for that healing when He was wounded, beaten, and killed. He did that so that we might live!



**1) WE ARE HEALED BY THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF JESUS**

Isaiah was prophesying about the manner and impact of Jesus' death! That He would be rejected, scorned, and that His stripes (or wounds) would offer healing. Generations later, Peter quoted Isaiah 53 when writing to Christians going through suffering.

*"For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps. 22 He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone. He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly. He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed. Once you were like sheep who wandered away. But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls." 1 Peter 2:21-25 (NLT)*

Interestingly, Peter quotes Isaiah while talking about something MORE than physical healing. Jesus was wounded so we can be healed \_\_\_\_\_. As we have seen above, Jesus offers \_\_\_\_\_ healing. He paid for that healing when He was \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. He did that so that we might live!



# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 6 - JESUS AS HEALER, TEACHING (cont.)

### 2) We are healed by the will of Jesus

Throughout Jesus' ministry He was approached multiple times and asked if He was willing to heal someone. The Gospels all make it clear that Jesus was willing and even eager to heal. Matthew records three stories of healings that happened back-to-back! Pay attention to how Jesus engages these moments. Read through all three of these stories and then we can discuss what stood out.

Matthew 8:1-3 (NLT) "Large crowds followed Jesus as he came down the mountainside. 2 Suddenly, a man with leprosy approached him and knelt before him. "Lord," the man said, "if you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean." 3 Jesus reached out and touched him. "I am willing," he said. "Be healed!" And instantly the leprosy disappeared."

Matthew 8:5-10; 13 (NLT) "When Jesus returned to Capernaum, a Roman officer came and pleaded with him, 6 "Lord, my young servant lies in bed, paralyzed and in terrible pain." 7 Jesus said, "I will come and heal him." 8 But the officer said, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come into my home. Just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed. 9 I know this because I am under the authority of my superior officers, and I have authority over my soldiers. I only need to say, 'Go,' and they go, or 'Come,' and they come. And if I say to my slaves, 'Do this,' they do it." 10 When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. Turning to those who were following him, he said, "I tell you the truth, I haven't seen faith like this in all Israel! ... 13 Then Jesus said to the Roman officer, "Go back home. Because you believed, it has happened." And the young servant was healed that same hour."

Matthew 8:13-17 (NLT) "When Jesus arrived at Peter's house, Peter's mother-in-law was sick in bed with a high fever. 15 But when Jesus touched her hand, the fever left her. Then she got up and prepared a meal for him. 16 That evening many demon-possessed people were brought to Jesus. He cast out the evil spirits with a simple command, and he healed all the sick. 17 This fulfilled the word of the Lord through the prophet Isaiah, who said, 'He took our sicknesses and removed our diseases.'"

Finally, did you catch how Matthew ends this series of stories? Verse 17 says that Jesus healing all these people "fulfilled the word of the Lord through the prophet Isaiah, who said, 'He took our sicknesses and removed our diseases.'" It was God's plan all along for the Messiah, Jesus, to be a healer. Matthew shares all these stories back-to-back so the reader might feel overwhelmed by just how willing Jesus was (and still is) to heal!

# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 6 - JESUS AS HEALER, TEACHING (cont.)

**We never force Jesus to heal; we couldn't do that if we tried. But thankfully, we don't have to! We can experience healing because Jesus wants to heal us. We are healed by the stripes and the will of Jesus.**

Here are a few discussion questions you could ask the Journey Group to reflect on specific details of these healing stories:

**What stands out to you as Jesus is asked if He is willing to heal?**

**What stands out to you as Jesus is approached by this Roman centurion?**

- Highlight that the Centurion could have ordered Jesus to go with Him.
- The Centurion didn't force Jesus; he came to ask.
- Jesus showed His willingness to heal through this entire encounter!

**What stands out to you as Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law AND the crowd?**

- Highlight that Jesus was so willing that He didn't even need to be asked!
  - He seems to just walk in the house, see Peter's mother-in-law is sick, and heal her.
- Then Jesus willingly heals a whole crowd of people.
  - Highlight that this healing is holistic as deliverance and healing are linked in this moment.
  - Jesus offers healing for our inner, spiritual life as well as the physical body.

**2) WE ARE HEALED BY THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF JESUS**

The Gospels all make it clear that Jesus was willing and even eager to heal. Matthew records three stories of healings that happened back-to-back! Pay attention to how Jesus engages these moments. Read through all three of these stories and then we can discuss what stood out.

*"Large crowds followed Jesus as he came down the mountainside. Suddenly, a man with leprosy approached him and knelt before him. "Lord," the man said, "if you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean." Jesus reached out and touched him. "I am willing," he said. "Be healed!" And instantly the leprosy disappeared." Matthew 8:1-3 (NLT)*

*"When Jesus returned to Capernaum, a Roman officer came and pleaded with him, "Lord, my young servant lies in bed, paralyzed and in terrible pain." Jesus said, "I will come and heal him." But the officer said, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come into my home. Just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed. I know this because I am under the authority of my superior officers, and I have authority over my soldiers. I only need to say, 'Go,' and they go, or 'Come,' and they come. And if I say to my slaves, 'Do this,' they do it." When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. Turning to those who were following him, he said, "I tell you the truth, I haven't seen faith like this in all Israel! ... Then Jesus said to the Roman officer, "Go back home. Because you believed, it has happened." And the young servant was healed that same hour." Matthew 8:5-10; 13 (NLT)*

*"When Jesus arrived at Peter's house, Peter's mother-in-law was sick in bed with a high fever. But when Jesus touched her hand, the fever left her. Then she got up and prepared a meal for him. That evening many demon-possessed people were brought to Jesus. He cast out the evil spirits with a simple command, and he healed all the sick. This fulfilled the word of the Lord through the prophet Isaiah, who said, 'He took our sicknesses and removed our diseases.'" Matthew 8:13-17 (NLT)*

Notice how Matthew ends this series of stories in verse 17. It was God's plan all along for Jesus to be a healer. Matthew shares all these stories back-to-back to overwhelm us by just how willing Jesus was (and still is) to heal!

We could never force Jesus to heal if we tried. Thankfully, we don't have to! We can experience healing because Jesus wants to heal us. We are healed by the stripes and the will of Jesus.

**Discussion Questions**

1. What stands out to you as Jesus is asked if He is willing to heal?
2. What stands out to you as Jesus is approached by this Roman centurion?
3. What stands out to you as Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law AND the crowd?

# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 6 - JESUS AS HEALER, TEACHING (cont.)

### 3) We are healed by the name of Jesus

In the early days of the New Testament Church there is a great story about healing:

Acts 3:1-8 (NLT) "Peter and John went to the Temple one afternoon to take part in the three o'clock prayer service. 2 As they approached the Temple, a man lame from birth was being carried in. Each day he was put beside the Temple gate, the one called the Beautiful Gate, so he could beg from the people going into the Temple. 3 When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for some money. 4 Peter and John looked at him intently, and Peter said, "Look at us!" 5 The lame man looked at them eagerly, expecting some money. 6 But Peter said, "I don't have any silver or gold for you. But I'll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ, the Nazarene, get up and walk!" 7 Then Peter took the lame man by the right hand and helped him up. And as he did, the man's feet and ankles were instantly healed and strengthened. 8 He jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk! Then, walking, leaping, and praising God, he went into the Temple with them."

This story shows us that Jesus is not the only person who can minister healing. But don't misunderstand; this man was not healed by Peter & John. It was the name of Jesus that did it! Jesus gave His name to His Church because His name carries His authority. Now followers of Jesus can minister healing in His name.

To be clear, Jesus' name is not a magic incantation that casts healing like a spell. Rather, when we minister healing in Jesus' name, we are inviting Jesus to be the Healer on behalf of the person we are praying for. This is why Peter said, "In the name of Jesus Christ, the Nazarene, get up and walk!" Peter never healed anyone. He was giving away something that he had been given; the name of Jesus, the Healer, to minister healing. Jesus demonstrated His power and willingness to heal by partnering with Peter in that moment of healing just like we saw Him do in Matthew's Gospel.

As you find yourself needing healing out on the path of life, one of the most glaring realities is that Jesus, the Healer, is not physically present with you. Remember, Jesus saved you and then left you with the road map (Scripture) and a powerful helper (the Holy Spirit). So, if Jesus is not there with you to heal you, you are going to need to learn how to do what Peter did when he met a person in need of healing. Jesus was not with him, but Peter used what He did have to minister healing...and it worked!



**3) WE ARE HEALED BY THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF JESUS**

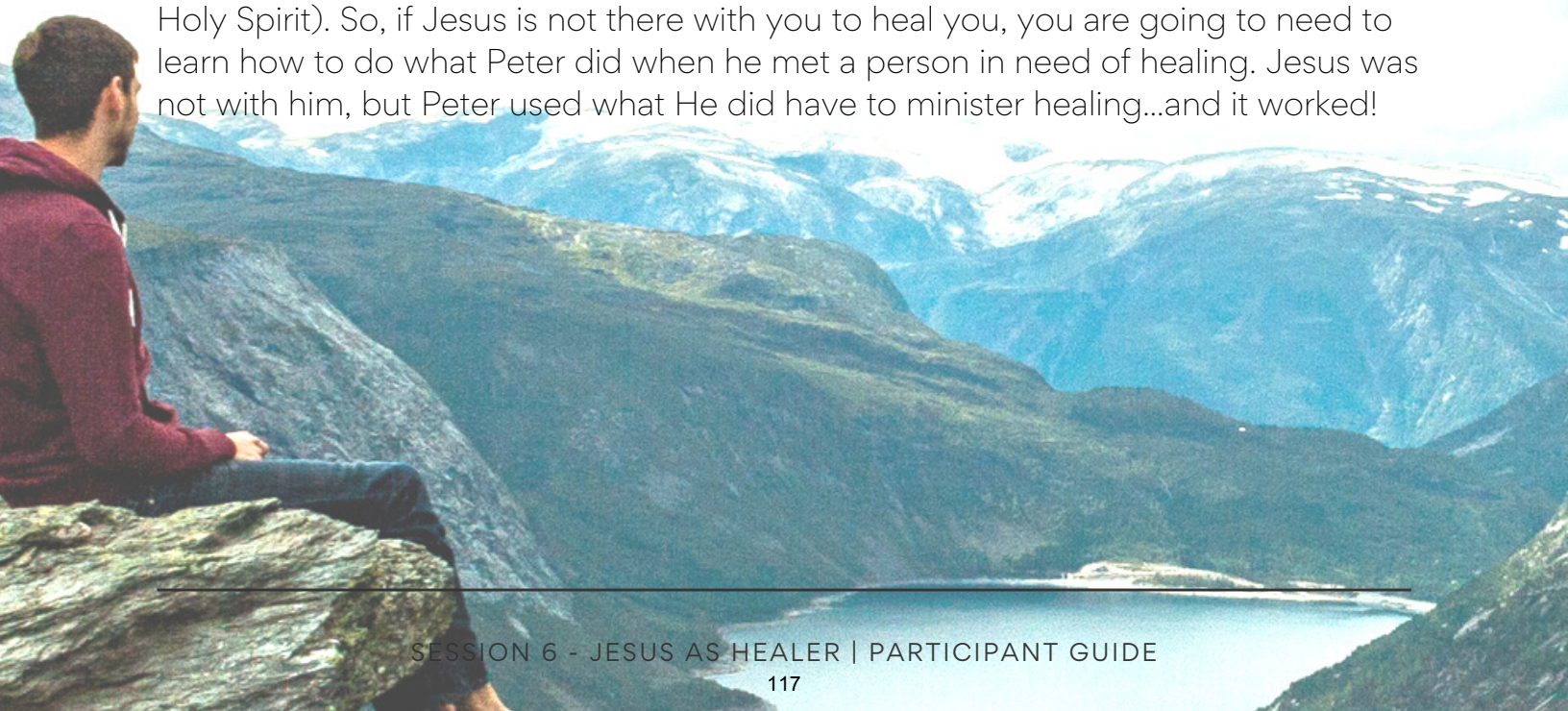
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# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 6 - JESUS AS HEALER, TEACHING (cont.)

Jesus is always willing to offer holistic healing to us and through us to others. God's people have a part to play in the healing ministry of Jesus in the world. This ministry is a partnership. Peter and John ministered healing, and we are invited to do the same! As we've said several times before, we do not heal people; only God can do that. What we can do is create an environment where healing can happen. You might call that environment a culture of healing.

When we work to create this kind of culture of healing we are working to partner with Jesus, the ultimate Healer. Here are six ways that you can intentionally partner with Jesus in His ministry of healing.

- 1) Create a safe and judgment free space for brokenness to enter
- 2) Tell the truth about brokenness and don't ignore it
- 3) Engage the sick/broken/hurting person with dignity and good faith.
  - Use appropriate physical contact with permission i.e., Laying on of hands for prayer
  - Practice appropriate relational contact i.e., Hosting space for people to feel safe AND encouraged/motivated to receive God's healing ministry
- 4) Declare the truth in loving ways about:
  - God's love and power to heal and...
  - How each person can/should partner with God's work to receive God's healing work
    - This might look like confession of sin
    - It might also look like joining a small group or seeing a counselor
- 5) Live with expectation that healing will happen:
  - Both miraculously (immediately)
  - And naturally (over time & without dramatic fanfare)
- 6) Pray prayers of faith and invitation:
  - Remember that Jesus is the Healer who is willing to heal. Our work is never to heal, but always to pray.
  - Our prayers should reflect our faith that Jesus wants to heal and has power to heal.





Jesus is always willing to offer holistic healing \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

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# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 6 - JESUS AS HEALER, TEACHING (cont.)

Here are three possible action steps that may be helpful for you to engage before our next session. You can try one or all of them.

### 1) Ask for prayer

This teaching may have helped you recognize any area in your own life where you need to experience healing. If that is the case, and you feel comfortable, you are invited to ask for prayer. You can ask your Journey Guide and Group to pray with you now before this session ends, and you can always ask at any time in the future.

### 2) Pray for others

As you go throughout this week, ask God to give you an opportunity to pray for someone who is in need of healing. When the opportunity presents itself, make sure to ask permission to pray and to lay hands on the person in an appropriate way. Pray in faith, inviting Jesus to heal in the power of His name, and if you experience a miraculous healing, celebrate the work of Jesus together!

### 3) Partner with God to heal a relationship

It is possible that the healing you need to experience is in a relationship you have with another person. If that is the case, ask God to show you what steps you can take this week to partner with Him in healing that relationship. Remember that relational healing between people requires everyone to be willing and do the work, so while you focus on the work Jesus calls you to do, pray blessings for the other person and ask God to give you the gift of healing and reconciling your relationship.

If the broken relationship involved abuse and would be unsafe to reconcile, you should not feel obligated to be in a physical relationship with that person again. Ask God to heal your heart of the pain caused in that relationship, pray that the other person would be healed and restored to God, and seek any counsel needed to know how to move towards a healed life while remaining safe.



# SESSION 6 - JESUS AS HEALER

## ACTION STEPS

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Try one or all of these this week:

1.

### **ASK FOR PRAYER**

This teaching may have helped you recognize any area in your own life where you need to experience healing. If that is the case, and you feel comfortable, you are invited to ask for prayer. You can ask your Journey Guide and Group to pray with you now before this session ends, and you can always ask at any time in the future.

2.

### **PRAY FOR OTHERS**

As you go throughout this week, ask God to give you an opportunity to pray for someone who is in need of healing. When the opportunity presents itself, make sure to ask permission to pray and to lay hands on the person in an appropriate way. Pray in faith, inviting Jesus to heal in the power of His name, and if you experience a miraculous healing, celebrate the work of Jesus together!

3.

### **PARTNER WITH GOD TO HEAL A RELATIONSHIP**

It is possible that the healing you need to experience is in a relationship you have with another person. If that is the case, ask God to show you what steps you can take this week to partner with Him in healing that relationship. Remember that relational healing between people requires everyone to be willing and do the work, so while you focus on the work Jesus calls you to do, pray blessings for the other person and ask God to give you the gift of healing and reconciling your relationship.

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# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 7 - JESUS AS HEALER, FIRESIDE CHAT

### ***1 Meeting – 1 hour in length***

*Welcome the participants back and open in prayer.*

*Feel free to ask for any updates or stories about how the week has been engaging their action steps. Then read the introduction and move through the guided Scripture reading.*



## SESSION 7 | JESUS AS HEALER

# FIRESIDE CHAT

### PURPOSE

The purpose of a fireside chat is to teach you how to dialogue about your faith-walk with Jesus. During a fireside chat, we will resist the urge to do theological work and focus our attention on the impact that walking the path with Jesus should have on our everyday lives. We will begin with a guided Scripture reading and then move on to a practical discussion about how the person of Jesus changes the way we live.



## SESSION 7 - JESUS AS HEALER GUIDED READING

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*“Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises. Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven. Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for three and a half years! 18 Then, when he prayed again, the sky sent down rain and the earth began to yield its crops.”*

*James 5:13-18 (NLT)*

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# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 7 - JESUS AS HEALER, FIRESIDE CHAT

Walk participants through the following steps. This could take up to 20 minutes, depending on participant engagement and sharing.

- Ready:
  - Invite participants to sit quietly for a minute or two to set their focus on God and prepare themselves to hear from His Word.
- Read:
  - Encourage participants that as you move through the text to pay close attention to what words and ideas draw your attention in unique ways.
  - Read the passage slowly and carefully....Take your time.
- Reflect:
  - Invite participants to reflect on the word or phrase that stood out to them.
    - You might want to read the passage again while they are reflecting; or simply allow them to reflect in silence.
  - Encourage participants to ask the Holy Spirit:
    - "What do I need to know, or be, or do in light of the text?"
    - "What does this mean for my life today?"
- Respond:
  - Encourage participants to write their thoughts, feelings, questions, and/or prayers
  - This is the perfect time to share reflections with the group
    - Honor the person sharing by truly listening to them.
    - Resist the urge to fix or correct anything you hear.
    - Honor the Scriptures by allowing God's Word to do the heavy lifting.
  - If at any point reflections require conversation:
    - You can always follow up later...
    - Or encourage them to speak with a pastor or Christian counselor.
- Rest:
  - Invite participants to rest in God's presence as you read the Scripture slowly again.
  - Lead the group through taking five slow, deep breaths
  - Conclude this time with a word of prayer, thanking God for His Word and asking for His blessing over the Journey Group



# SESSION 7 - JESUS AS HEALER

Use this page to record your reflections and response to this passage.

- **Ready:**
  - Sit quietly, setting your focus on God and preparing to hear from His Word.
- **Read:**
  - Listen as your Journey Guide reads the passage.
  - Pay close attention to what words and ideas draw your attention in unique ways.
- **Reflect:**
  - Write the word or phrase that stood out to you.
  - Ask the Holy Spirit:
    - "What do I need to know, or be, or do in light of the text?"
    - "What does this mean for my life today?"
  - How does this passage speak to how healing changes your life?
- **Respond:**
  - Write your thoughts, feelings, questions, and/or prayers
  - If you feel comfortable, share your reflections with the group
    - Honor the person sharing by truly listening to them.
    - Resist the urge to fix or correct anything you hear.
    - Honor the Scriptures by allowing God's Word to do the heavy lifting.
- **Rest:**
  - Rest in God's presence as the Scripture is read again.
  - Take five slow, deep breaths



# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 7 - JESUS AS HEALER, FIRESIDE CHAT

*The rest of this session will be spent in group discussion around open-ended questions. Depending on the size of the Journey Group, you may want to consider breaking them into smaller groups of three to five people. If you create small-groups, encourage those groups to stay together for all of the fireside chats throughout Foursquare Path. This will strengthen relationships and make room for more open conversations.*

*Feel free to join one of the groups for their discussion, but make sure to allow the participants to do the heavy lifting. When you feel that the discussion is coming to an end, or as the hour is up, draw everyone's attention to their Reflection page, read those instructions, and then close the session in prayer.*

*Journey Group Discussion questions:*

- *How have I experienced Jesus being the Healer of my physical, spiritual, and relational life?*
- *What new understanding about Jesus and healing have I discovered as a result of Foursquare Path?*
- *Who do I know who is in need of healing, and what loving and faith-filled steps can I take this week to minister healing to them?*
- *What practical actions will I commit to take in light of Jesus being my Healer?*



# SESSION 7 - JESUS AS HEALER

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



- How have I experienced Jesus being the Healer of my physical, spiritual, and relational life?
- What new understanding about Jesus and healing have I discovered as a result of Foursquare Path?
- Who do I know who is in need of healing, and what loving and faith-filled steps can I take this week to minister healing to them?
- What practical actions will I commit to take in light of Jesus being my Healer?

# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 7 - JESUS AS HEALER, FIRESIDE CHAT

The next time we gather we will be moving on to a new topic, but you may have more on your mind as you think about Jesus being your Healer. Use this section to write any reflections, thoughts, or burning questions that you have. What new understanding do you have about God, yourself, or how you can partner with Him in the world? What you write here might serve as inspiration for deeper study about Jesus after your Foursquare Path journey comes to an end. If you would like to spend the next week practicing your action steps again, this might also be a good place to mark that decision and write about your experience.

Pray

Dismiss

## SESSION 7 - JESUS AS HEALER

### R E F L E C T I O N

- As you end each leg of your journey you will have a chance to update or recommit to your action steps for another week.
- Your Guide will also encourage you to take some personal time during the coming week to reflect on what you've learned.
- What new understanding do you have about God, yourself, or how you can partner with Him in the world?
- What questions do you still have?
- It will be best if you plan to write your reflections down in this Reflection portion provided for you.







# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## **Session 8 - JESUS AS SOON COMING KING, TEACHING**

*1 Meeting – 1 hour in length*

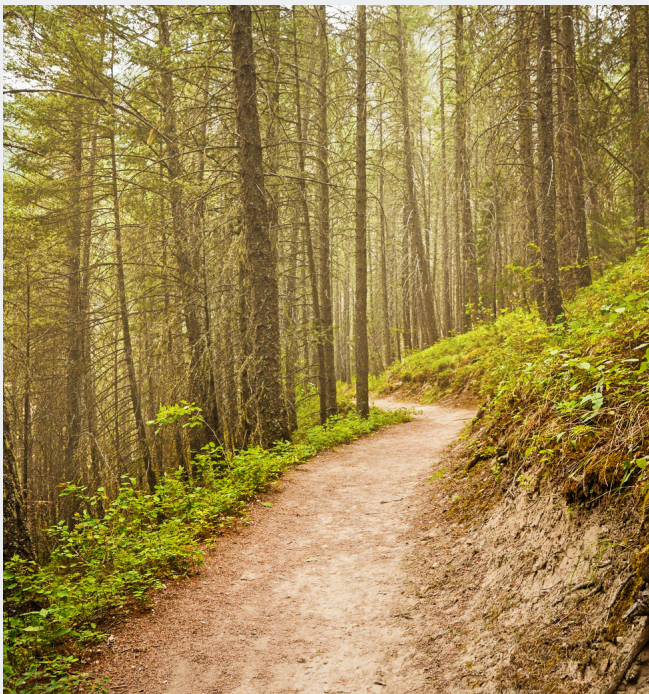
*Welcome everyone to the session.*

*Pray.*

*Begin by reading the first and second page of Session 8*

# SESSION 8

*Jesus as Soon Coming King*



“



*"Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. And you know the way to where I am going."*  
John 14:1-4 (NLT)

During this session travelers will move through interactive material designed to teach the foundational theology around this core belief that Jesus is our Soon Coming King.

You will learn:

- What kind of King Jesus is
- When we can expect His return
- What we should be doing while we wait



# SESSION 8 - JESUS AS SOON COMING KING

By this time on your journey, you have learned a great deal, and hopefully, a great deal has changed for the better. Having been offered salvation, the Holy Spirit, and healing, it would appear that you are equipped to succeed on your path for the rest of your life. Yet, the idea that this is, in fact, your journey is not quite right.

As you walk along the path of life, you begin to see a sign posted along the way that you had not noticed before. The signs read: **This is the King's land. Honor Him until He returns to lead you to Paradise!** A sense of dread falls over your journey group. When did we cross into private land? Who is this king, and what happens if He catches us here?

As you try to find your way back to free land you come across a seasoned traveler and ask about this king, his land, and how it is you came to be on it without knowing you had crossed a border. "Oh!" the old traveler says, "You've been on the King's land all along. He owns it all." Seeing the confusion on your faces, the traveler says, "I'm certain you would have met Him by now. His name is Jesus." Relief, laughter, and a little confusion fills the air as the traveler agrees to tell you everything you need to know. Jesus, your Savior, Baptizer with the Holy Spirit, and Healer, is also your King.



# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 8 - JESUS AS SOON COMING KING, TEACHING (cont.)

What kind of King is Jesus?

We call Jesus a king simply because He is one! Jesus descended from the line of King David. So, Jesus is a descendent of human royalty, but He is so much more than that.  
Jesus is the King of Kings

Paul, wrote in 1 Timothy 6:15 about Jesus as, “the King of kings and Lord of lords”. In Revelation 19:16 John wrote that, “On his robe at his thigh was written this title: King of all kings and Lord of all lords.” So, we call Jesus a ‘king’ quite simply because He is one! More than being just a king in a long line of kings, Jesus is the King of kings. He has the highest authority.

Matthew 28:18 (NLT) “Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.”


Colossians 1:16 (NLT) “Through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can’t see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him.”

Calling Jesus the King of kings is to say that He is set apart and above every other king. Like earthly kings, Jesus has authority. He simply has more of it than the rest. Unlike earthly kings however, He does not have the same flaws. Where humans lack moral character or fall short in any way, Jesus is perfect and without sin.

We are encouraged often to pray for our leaders, and yet, when was the last time you were asked to pray for Jesus? For His character to be strong? For His protection? For His relationships with His rivals? For Him to make wise decisions that agree with Scripture? We never have to pray for Jesus because He is the King above all the drama & above all other kings! He is perfect, and all His ways are good! He has no rivals because He has no equal! Consider how John describes Jesus toward the end of His Revelation:

Revelation 19:11-16 (NLT) “Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. Its rider was named Faithful and True, for he judges fairly and wages a righteous war.<sup>12</sup> His eyes were like flames of fire, and on his head were many crowns. A name was written on him that no one understood except himself. <sup>13</sup> He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his title was the Word of God. <sup>14</sup> The armies of heaven, dressed in the finest of pure white linen, followed him on white horses. <sup>15</sup> From his mouth came a sharp sword to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will release the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty, like juice flowing from a winepress. <sup>16</sup> On his robe at his thigh was written this title: King of all kings and Lord of all lords.”





# What kind of King is Jesus?

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*“Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. Its rider was named Faithful and True, for he judges fairly and wages a righteous war. His eyes were like flames of fire, and on his head were many crowns. A name was written on him that no one understood except himself. He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his title was the Word of God. The armies of heaven, dressed in the finest of pure white linen, followed him on white horses. From his mouth came a sharp sword to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will release the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty, like juice flowing from a winepress. On his robe at his thigh was written this title: King of all kings and Lord of all lords.” Revelation 19:11-16 (NLT)*

# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 8 - JESUS AS SOON COMING KING, TEACHING (cont.)

### Jesus is the King of Justice and Peace

Prophecies about the Messiah described Him as a Warrior-King whose reign would be marked by justice and peace. Isaiah prophesied this about Jesus hundreds of years before He was born:

Isaiah 9:6-7 (NLT) "For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven's Armies will make this happen!"

The author of Hebrews writes about God's promise to bless His people and links Jesus to being a king of both justice and peace:

Hebrews 6:19-7:3 (NLT) "This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary. 20 Jesus has already gone in there for us. He has become our eternal High Priest in the order of Melchizedek. 7:1 This Melchizedek was king of the city of Salem and also a priest of God Most High. When Abraham was returning home after winning a great battle against the kings, Melchizedek met him and blessed him. 2 Then Abraham took a tenth of all he had captured in battle and gave it to Melchizedek. The name Melchizedek means "king of justice," and king of Salem means "king of peace." 3 There is no record of his father or mother or any of his ancestors—no beginning or end to his life. He remains a priest forever, resembling the Son of God."

The name Melchizedek means 'King of Justice', and he was said to be the 'King of Salem' which means peace. So, his reign marked him as the 'king of peace'. Melchizedek was an archetype (or foreshadowing) of Jesus. Some theologians say it actually was Jesus who met & blessed Abraham. Since Jesus is a priest in the order of Melchizedek, He too is a King of Justice and Peace, just like Isaiah prophesied!

This again sets Jesus apart from all earthly kings. Where earthly rulers are marked by scandal, Jesus is the King of Justice. Where earthly kings face battles, both physical and political, Jesus is the King of Peace.

Pause and reflect/discuss: How should understanding that Jesus is the King of kings impact the way His followers engage with Him?

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# SESSION 8 - JESUS AS SOON COMING KING 123

## JESUS IS THE KING OF JUSTICE AND PEACE

Prophecies about the Messiah described Him as a Warrior-King whose reign would be marked by justice and peace. Isaiah prophesied this about Jesus hundreds of years before He was born:

*“For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies will make this happen!” Isaiah 9:6-7 (NLT)*

The author of Hebrews writes about God’s promise to bless His people and links Jesus to being a king of both justice and peace:

*“This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God’s inner sanctuary. Jesus has already gone in there for us. He has become our eternal High Priest in the order of Melchizedek. (7:1) This Melchizedek was king of the city of Salem and also a priest of God Most High. When Abraham was returning home after winning a great battle against the kings, Melchizedek met him and blessed him. Then Abraham took a tenth of all he had captured in battle and gave it to Melchizedek. The name Melchizedek means “king of justice,” and king of Salem means “king of peace.” There is no record of his father or mother or any of his ancestors—no beginning or end to his life. He remains a priest forever, resembling the Son of God.” Hebrews 6:19-7:3 (NLT)*

The name Melchizedek means '\_\_\_\_\_', and he was said to be the 'King of Salem' which means peace. So, his reign marked him as the 'king of peace'. Melchizedek was an archetype (or foreshadowing) of Jesus. Some theologians say it actually was Jesus who met & blessed Abraham. Since Jesus is a priest in the order of Melchizedek, He too is a King of Justice and Peace, just like Isaiah prophesied!

This again sets Jesus apart from all earthly kings. Where earthly rulers are marked by scandal, Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_.

Where earthly kings face battles, both physical and political, Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_.



# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 8 - JESUS AS SOON COMING KING, TEACHING (cont.)

When can we expect His return?

In the same way that we call Jesus the King of kings, Jesus is also our Soon Coming King. After Jesus' resurrection from death, He ascended to Heaven. But not without making the very specific promise to return. The return of Jesus is referenced over 300 times in the New Testament! In fact, Jesus talked about it Himself before and after His death and resurrection:

John 14:1-4 (NLT) "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. 2 There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? 3 When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. 4 And you know the way to where I am going."

Acts 1:6-11 (NLT) "So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, 'Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?' 7 He replied, 'The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' 9 After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. 10 As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. 11 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!'"

Jesus is coming back. He promised it! But when? Calling Jesus our Soon Coming King makes it sound like He is coming back within days. Yet, followers of Jesus have been calling Him this for generations. So when is Jesus coming back? Paul gives us an answer (sort of):

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 (NLT) "But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! 52 It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. 53 For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies."

Scripture paints the picture that when Jesus returns, His followers will experience a sudden and radical transformation! The Bible does not name this event, but theologians refer to it as "The Rapture". We won't take time to wrestle with all the questions about what happens during and after the rapture. That deserves its own study. For now, notice how Paul describes Jesus' return. He does not tell us when it will happen, but he does give us a small insight into how it will happen.



# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 8 - JESUS AS SOON COMING KING, TEACHING (cont.)

Whenever Jesus returns, it will happen suddenly, quickly. Saying that Jesus is our Soon Coming King is not a timestamp, it is meant to encourage a sense of anticipation and urgency to be ready for His return whenever it may happen. Jesus responded to the question of when He would return with similar clarity:

Matthew 24:36-44 (NLT) “No one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows. 37 “When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah’s day. 38 In those days before the flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat. 39 People didn’t realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes. 40 “Two men will be working together in the field; one will be taken, the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding flour at the mill; one will be taken, the other left. 42 “So you, too, must keep watch! For you don’t know what day your Lord is coming. 43 Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would keep watch and not permit his house to be broken into. 44 You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected.”

Jesus does not tell us when He will return, but He is our Soon Coming King. We are to live with anticipation that His return could happen at any time. Jesus says “keep watch”. He wants us to be ready because when He does return it will be sudden and quick. However, we are not left simply waiting. There are a lot of things that we should be doing while we wait.

**WHEN CAN WE EXPECT HIS RETURN?**

After Jesus' resurrection from death, He ascended to Heaven, but not without making the very specific promise to return. The return of Jesus is referenced over 300 times in the New Testament!

*"Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. And you know the way to where I am going." John 14:1-4 (NLT)*

*"So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, 'Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?' He replied, 'The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!' Acts 1:6-11 (NLT)*

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Whenever Jesus returns, it will happen \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_. Saying that Jesus is our Soon Coming King is not a timestamp, it is meant to encourage a sense of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to be ready for His return whenever it may happen.

*No one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows. "When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah's day. In those days before the flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat. People didn't realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes. "Two men will be working together in the field; one will be taken, the other left. Two women will be grinding flour at the mill; one will be taken, the other left. "So you, too, must keep watch! For you don't know what day your Lord is coming. Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would keep watch and not permit his house to be broken into. You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected." Matthew 24:36-44 (NLT)*

**Jesus does not tell us when He will return, but He is our Soon Coming King.  
We are to live with anticipation that His return could happen at any time.  
However, we are not left simply waiting. There are a lot of things  
that we should be doing while we wait.**

# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 8 - JESUS AS SOON COMING KING, TEACHING (cont.)

What should we be doing while we wait?

Think back to the moment right after Jesus ascended into Heaven. In Acts, Luke writes that the disciples were staring up where Jesus had been when suddenly there were angels asking them a very interesting question:

Acts 1:6-11 (NLT) "Men of Galilee," they said, "why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!"

The disciples were found looking up, as if they were expecting Him to come back within minutes. The angels did not appear with a new message from God. Interestingly they appeared to ask a question that was designed to get the disciples to act. It's almost as if the angels heard Jesus give the disciples things to be doing and showed up just to say, "What are you waiting for? You have work to do!" Let's look at a few things we should be doing while we wait for Jesus' return.



# SESSION 8 - JESUS AS SOON COMING KING



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doing while we wait?*

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**“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!”**

## **ACTS 1:6-11 (NLT)**

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# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 8 - JESUS AS SOON COMING KING, TEACHING (cont.)

### PRAYER

In Acts, the Disciples set the tone for how we should be living as we await Jesus' return. Immediately after Jesus' ascended, we read this:

Acts 1:12-14 (NLT) "When the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, a distance of half a mile. 13 When they arrived, they went to the upstairs room of the house where they were staying. Here are the names of those who were present: Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Simon (the zealot), and Judas (son of James). 14 They all met together and were constantly united in prayer, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus."

Followers of Jesus are not left completely cut off from God while we await His return.

Prayer is the gift of open communication with Him. The disciples immediately set the tone for life in the waiting as a life of prayer. It was the first thing they did, and it continues to be a powerful tool of the church to this day.

### COMMUNITY

The Church that was launched and grew after Jesus' earthly ministry was not the organization that most people think of about the modern church. The early church was a community of people who believed the same thing about Jesus and were committed to living together in ways that encouraged following Him. After the events of Pentecost, we get this glimpse of early Church community:

Acts 2:42-47 (NLT) "All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. 43 A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. 44 And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. 45 They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. 46 They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— 47 all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved."

Notice the elements of the Church's community?

- 1) Devotion to teaching
- 2) Shared meals
- 3) Prayer
- 4) Meeting needs, including miracles and physical resources
- 5) Regular church gatherings
- 6) Praise
- 7) Engaging people outside of Christian community in ways that produced favor.

As we wait for Jesus to return, we must be committed to build this kind of community in His name.

# SESSION 8 - JESUS AS SOON COMING KING

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## PRAYER

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# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 8 - JESUS AS SOON COMING KING, TEACHING (cont.)

### SHARING THE GOSPEL AND GROWING CHRIST'S CHURCH

As a community of prayer, we are living on a mission field. We know that Jesus is coming again quickly, and it is our job to grow Jesus' kingdom by sharing the Gospel and making disciples. In fact, Jesus said that His return is dependent on our sharing doing this work.

Matthew 24:14 (NLT) "The Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come."

While we don't have a date for the return of Jesus, He did give us a goal. The goal is that every person would hear the Gospel. Jesus told us not just to tell people about Him, but to make disciples.

Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT) "Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.<sup>20</sup> Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Our job as subjects of a Soon Coming King is sharing the Good News about Jesus so that people everywhere might also believe in Him and be found on the path of life. This means that every follower of Jesus is called to the work of making disciples. Our missions-field is the entire world, and the team is every Christian. You are a missionary!

Remember what Acts 2:47 tells us. "Each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved." When followers of Jesus live with a sense of urgency about the return of the King of kings, they tell people about Him, they invite them into community, and they help them grow in their faith. Of course, Jesus gets all the credit for adding people to His Church, but it is our job to share the news and make disciples. Jesus made a great promise to those who would commit to this work:

Acts 1:8 (NLT) "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 8 - JESUS AS SOON COMING KING, TEACHING (cont.)

### WE WAIT

Jesus did not save you, baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and heal you simply to enable you to walk your own path fully alive. He did all of that so that you would walk on *His* path. It is His path because Jesus is a king. Living with Jesus as our king does not mean that we no longer have free will, but that we freely submit our will to Jesus as the leader and ultimate authority of our lives.

Jesus' absence offers us a final important lesson. The lesson of waiting. Waiting for the return of King Jesus leaves us living here in this world. Knowing that we have an eternal home, and a coming King has a way of pulling the curtain back on ugly darkness that hides under-cover in our own hearts and the world around us. We have been given an opportunity to learn to be patient. To learn to endure suffering and to learn to hold on to eternal hope through temporary pain and discomfort.

The discomfort and pain of having to wait for a King who promised to return brings our journey full circle. Waiting reminds us that we live in a world that still needs a savior. Our questions, doubts, and spiritual warfare remind us that we are still in need of the filling power and wisdom of the Holy Spirit. Pain reminds us that we still need a Healer. And our frustration as we wait reminds us that we are living submitted to a King.

Jesus is King over our waiting because of the promise of His return! He is the king who offers a lesson of resilience through trials. He is still King in our suffering and gives us hope for life beyond death. It may not be comfortable to have to wait for the glorious return of King Jesus... but it is good.



# SESSION 8 - JESUS AS SOON COMING KING

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# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## **Session 8 - JESUS AS SOON COMING KING, TEACHING (cont.)**

Pause here for a few moments to discuss the following:

- How might a regular practice of prayer impact your life as you wait for Jesus' return?
- How has Christian community been helpful to you?
- What can you do to invite people into community or build community where you cannot already see it?



# SESSION 8 - JESUS AS SOON COMING KING

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# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 8 - JESUS AS SOON COMING KING, TEACHING (cont.)

Back on the path, you and your friends have experienced so much. You have come a very long way, and yet, your travels have only just begun. This journey will take the rest of your life. There are storms and even enemies ahead, but you are not alone, and you have what you need to survive. When you set out on this adventure you quickly discovered that you were lost and without hope. Now, you and your Journey Group have become an equipped and seasoned family of travelers on the Foursquare Path.

Looking around at each other, smiles cross your faces as you each think of the road behind you, and the adventure ahead. Feeling confident in what you have discovered about yourself and about Jesus, you each pick up your packs and keep walking together on the road of the Soon Coming King.



# SESSION 8 - JESUS AS SOON COMING KING

Back on the path, you and your friends have experienced so much. You have come a very long way, and yet, your travels have only just begun. This journey will take the rest of your life. There are storms and even enemies ahead, but you are not alone, and you have what you need to survive. When you set out on this adventure you quickly discovered that you were lost and without hope. Now, you and your Journey Group have become an equipped and seasoned family of travelers on the Foursquare Path.

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# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 8 - JESUS AS SOON COMING KING, TEACHING (cont.)

Here are three possible action steps that may be helpful for you to engage before our next session. You can try one or all of them.

### 1) Prayer

If you do not already have a habit of daily prayer, consider how you might add prayer into your daily routine. Make a list of prayer points and schedule a time to pray through it every day. This list should include personal needs and the needs of others that you would bring to God.

### 2) Community

As well as committing to regular weekend church engagement, make plans to continue gathering with friends to pray, study Scripture, and encourage each other. If this time with your Journey Group has been life-giving, consider gathering regularly in the future as a small group.

### 3) Share the Gospel

Think back to your trail story about how Jesus has changed your life. Considering what you have learned over the past few weeks, is there anything you would add to how you share your story? Take some time this week to make any changes and ask God to give you an opportunity to share your story with someone who needs to hear the Good News about Jesus.

# SESSION 8 - JESUS AS SOON COMING KING

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## ACTION STEPS

Try one or all of these this week:

1.

### **PRAYER**

If you do not already have a habit of daily prayer, consider how you might add prayer into your daily routine. Make a list of prayer points and schedule a time to pray through it every day. This list should include personal needs and the needs of others that you would bring to God.

2.

### **COMMUNITY**

As well as committing to regular weekend church engagement, make plans to continue gathering with friends to pray, study Scripture, and encourage each other. If this time with your Journey Group has been life-giving, consider gathering regularly in the future as a small group.

3.

### **SHARE THE GOSPEL**

Think back to your trail story about how Jesus has changed your life. Considering what you have learned over the past few weeks, is there anything you would add to how you share your story? Take some time this week to make any changes and ask God to give you an opportunity to share your story with someone who needs to hear the Good News about Jesus.









# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 9 - JESUS AS SOON COMING KING, FIRESIDE CHAT

### ***1 Meeting – 1 hour in length***

*Welcome the participants back and open in prayer.*

*Feel free to ask for any updates or stories about how the week has been engaging their action steps. Then read the introduction and move through the guided Scripture reading.*



SESSION 9 | JESUS AS SOON COMING KING

# FIRESIDE CHAT

## PURPOSE

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The purpose of a fireside chat is to teach you how to dialogue about your faith-walk with Jesus. During a fireside chat, we will resist the urge to do theological work and focus our attention on the impact that walking the path with Jesus should have on our everyday lives. We will begin with a guided Scripture reading and then move on to a practical discussion about how the person of Jesus changes the way we live.

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## SESSION 9 - JESUS AS SOON COMING KING

### GUIDED READING

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*“Now concerning how and when all this will happen, dear brothers and sisters, we don’t really need to write you. For you know quite well that the day of the Lord’s return will come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night. When people are saying, “Everything is peaceful and secure,” then disaster will fall on them as suddenly as a pregnant woman’s labor pains begin. And there will be no escape. But you aren’t in the dark about these things, dear brothers and sisters, and you won’t be surprised when the day of the Lord comes like a thief. For you are all children of the light and of the day; we don’t belong to darkness and night. So be on your guard, not asleep like the others. Stay alert and be clear headed. Night is the time when people sleep and drinkers get drunk. But let us who live in the light be clear headed, protected by the armor of faith and love, and wearing as our helmet the confidence of our salvation. For God chose to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ, not to pour out his anger on us. Christ died for us so that, whether we are dead or alive when he returns, we can live with him forever. So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.”*

*1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 (NLT)*

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# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 9 - JESUS AS SOON COMING KING, FIRESIDE CHAT

Walk participants through the following steps. This could take up to 20 minutes, depending on participant engagement and sharing.

- Ready:
  - Invite participants to sit quietly for a minute or two to set their focus on God and prepare themselves to hear from His Word.
- Read:
  - Encourage participants that as you move through the text to pay close attention to what words and ideas draw your attention in unique ways.
  - Read the passage slowly and carefully....Take your time.
- Reflect:
  - Invite participants to reflect on the word or phrase that stood out to them.
    - You might want to read the passage again while they are reflecting; or simply allow them to reflect in silence.
  - Encourage participants to ask the Holy Spirit:
    - "What do I need to know, or be, or do in light of the text?"
    - "What does this mean for my life today?"
- Respond:
  - Encourage participants to write their thoughts, feelings, questions, and/or prayers
  - This is the perfect time to share reflections with the group
    - Honor the person sharing by truly listening to them.
    - Resist the urge to fix or correct anything you hear.
    - Honor the Scriptures by allowing God's Word to do the heavy lifting.
  - If at any point reflections require conversation:
    - You can always follow up later...
    - Or encourage them to speak with a pastor or Christian counselor.
- Rest:
  - Invite participants to rest in God's presence as you read the Scripture slowly again.
  - Lead the group through taking five slow, deep breaths
  - Conclude this time with a word of prayer, thanking God for His Word and asking for His blessing over the Journey Group



# SESSION 9 - JESUS AS SOON COMING KING

Use this page to record your reflections and response to this passage.

- **Ready:**
  - Sit quietly, setting your focus on God and preparing to hear from His Word.
- **Read:**
  - Listen as your Journey Guide reads the passage.
  - Pay close attention to what words and ideas draw your attention in unique ways.
- **Reflect:**
  - Write the word or phrase that stood out to you.
  - Ask the Holy Spirit:
    - "What do I need to know, or be, or do in light of the text?"
    - "What does this mean for my life today?"
  - How does this passage speak to how Jesus, the Coming King changes your life?
- **Respond:**
  - Write your thoughts, feelings, questions, and/or prayers
  - If you feel comfortable, share your reflections with the group
    - Honor the person sharing by truly listening to them.
    - Resist the urge to fix or correct anything you hear.
    - Honor the Scriptures by allowing God's Word to do the heavy lifting.
- **Rest:**
  - Rest in God's presence as the Scripture is read again.
  - Take five slow, deep breaths

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# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## **Session 9 - JESUS AS SOON COMING KING, FIRESIDE CHAT**

*The rest of this session will be spent in group discussion around open-ended questions. Depending on the size of the Journey Group, you may want to consider breaking them into smaller groups of three to five people. If you create small-groups, encourage those groups to stay together for all of the fireside chats throughout Foursquare Path. This will strengthen relationships and make room for more open conversations.*

*Feel free to join one of the groups for their discussion, but make sure to allow the participants to do the heavy lifting. When you feel that the discussion is coming to an end, or as the hour is up, draw everyone's attention to their Reflection page, read those instructions, and then close the session in prayer.*

*Journey Group Discussion questions:*

- *What impact does Jesus being a Soon Coming King have on my daily life?*
- *What does a daily practice of prayer look like in my life?*
- *What steps will I take to continue personal discipleship after Foursquare Path?*
- *How will I partner with Jesus in making disciples?*

# SESSION 9 - JESUS AS SOON COMING KING

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



- What impact does Jesus being a Soon Coming King have on my daily life?
- What does a daily practice of prayer look like in my life?
- What steps will I take to continue personal discipleship after Foursquare Path?
- How will I partner with Jesus in making disciples?

# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 9 - JESUS AS SOON COMING KING, FIRESIDE CHAT

The next time we gather we will be concluding our Foursquare Path journey, but you may have more on your mind as you think about Jesus being your Soon Coming King. Use this section to write any reflections, thoughts, or burning questions that you have. What new understanding do you have about God, yourself, or how you can partner with Him in the world? What you write here might serve as inspiration for deeper study about Jesus after your Foursquare Path journey comes to an end. If you would like to spend the next week practicing your action steps again, this might also be a good place to mark that decision and write about your experience.

Prayer

Dismissal



## SESSION 9 - JESUS AS SOON COMING KING

### R E F L E C T I O N

The next time we gather we will be concluding our Foursquare Path journey, but you may have more on your mind as you think about Jesus being your Soon Coming King. Use this section to write any reflections, thoughts, or burning questions that you have. What new understanding do you have about God, yourself, or how you can partner with Him in the world? What you write here might serve as inspiration for deeper study about Jesus after your Foursquare Path journey comes to an end. If you would like to spend the next week practicing your action steps again, this might also be a good place to mark that decision and write about your experience.





# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 10 - CONCLUSION

*1 Meeting – 1 hour in length*

**We have covered a lot of ground since we began this journey together! This final gathering is designed to help you look back in celebration, and look ahead in preparation for the days after these weekly gatherings come to an end.**

### **Celebration**

**Over the past ten weeks we have learned about Jesus being our Savior, Baptizer with the Holy Spirit, Healer, and Soon Coming King. If you have given yourself to this journey, there is no doubt that Jesus has had a positive impact on your life. Take a few minutes to think back on what you have learned. How has your Foursquare Path journey changed your life? Write down the significant lessons and breakthroughs you have experienced.**

**Take some time now to share what you are celebrating with your Journey Group.**

*It will help the participants a great deal to see you set the tone in celebrating their growth and breakthroughs. As they share, make it a point to be vocal about celebrating with them. Feel free to tell them about the areas of growth that you have seen in them as well.*

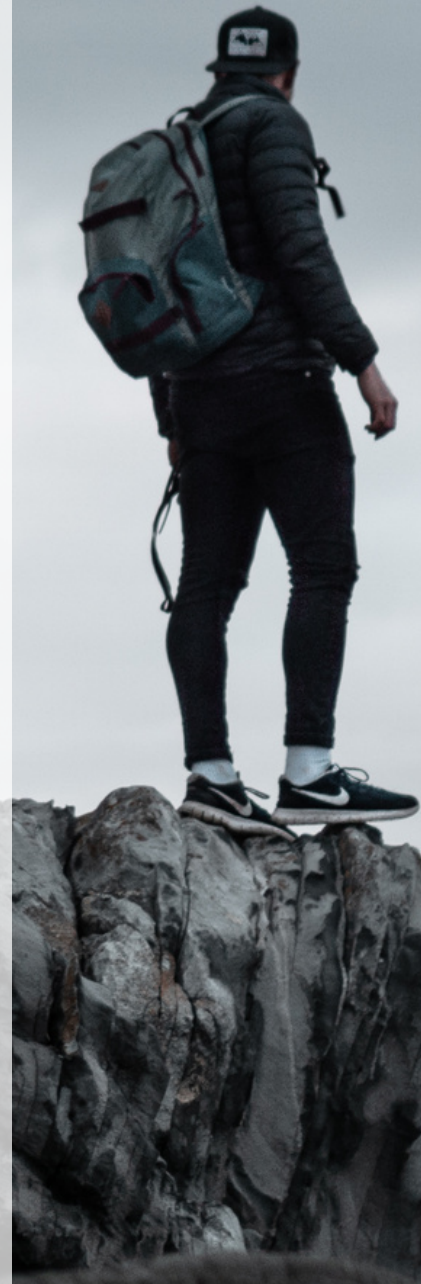
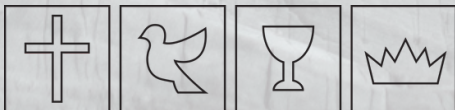


We have covered a lot of ground since we began this journey together! This final gathering is designed to help you look back in celebration, and look ahead in preparation for the days after these weekly gatherings come to an end.

## CELEBRATION

Over the past ten weeks we have learned about Jesus being our Savior, Baptizer with the Holy Spirit, Healer, and Soon Coming King. If you have given yourself to this journey, there is no doubt that Jesus has had a positive impact on your life. Take a few minutes to think back on what you have learned. How has your Foursquare Path journey changed your life? Write down the significant lessons and breakthroughs you have experienced.

Take some time now to share what you are celebrating with your Journey Group.





# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 10 - CONCLUSION

### Preparation

**As Foursquare Path comes to an end it will be important for you to commit to regular practices that keep you rooted in the person and ministry of Jesus as your Savior, Baptizer with the Holy Spirit, Healer, and Soon Coming King. Below are recommended practices for you to engage as you move into the future. These disciplines are designed to help you continue your journey with Jesus so that you are able to resist the pull for the Foursquare Path to become a class you once took, and empowered to turn it into a lifestyle. Take time with your Journey Group to review the recommended practices and talk about your plans to engage them in your life moving forward.**



## SESSION 10 - CONCLUSION

As Foursquare Path comes to an end it will be important for you to commit to regular practices that keep you rooted in the person and ministry of Jesus as your Savior, Baptizer with the Holy Spirit, Healer, and Soon Coming King. Below are recommended practices for you to engage as you move into the future. These disciplines are designed to help you continue your journey with Jesus so that you are able to resist the pull for the Foursquare Path to become a class you once took, and empowered to turn it into a lifestyle. Take time with your Journey Group to review the recommended practices and talk about your plans to engage them in your life moving forward.





# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 10 - CONCLUSION

### **Walking with Jesus your Savior**

#### **Confession**

**When you first became a follower of Jesus, you confessed that you were a sinner in need of a savior. As you walk forward with Jesus, you will no doubt still face a battle against sin in your life. Confession is the practice of telling the truth about your humanity to God and to safe people who will hold your confession in confidence and encourage you toward overcoming areas of sin in your life. Make confession a regular and normal practice of your walk with Jesus and you will find that the shame and allure of sin will grow weaker as your relationship with Jesus grows stronger.**

#### **Communion**

**Communion will be a regular practice as you continue to engage in weekend worship gatherings. You may also find that taking communion alone, with your family, or a small group of friends may be life-giving. However-often you take communion, take full advantage of the opportunity to remember the work of Jesus in offering you salvation. As you keep your heart connected to the saving work of Jesus through communion, your walk with Him will remain fresh.**



# WALKING WITH JESUS YOUR SAVIOR

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When you first became a follower of Jesus, you confessed that you were a sinner in need of a savior. As you walk forward with Jesus, you will no doubt still face a battle against sin in your life. Confession is the practice of telling the truth about your humanity to God and to safe people who will hold your confession in confidence and encourage you toward overcoming areas of sin in your life. Make confession a regular and normal practice of your walk with Jesus and you will find that the shame and allure of sin will grow weaker as your relationship with Jesus grows stronger.



## COMMUNION

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# **- JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -**

## **Session 10 - CONCLUSION**

### **Walking with Jesus your Baptizer with the Holy Spirit**

#### **Practice your gifts**

**As a Spirit-filled follower of Jesus, you have been given spiritual gifts so that you can be a blessing to others. You will learn more about the ways the Holy Spirit has gifted you as you commit to practicing them in the context of church community and out in the world. Resist the fear of failure and become a student of spiritual gifts by studying the Word and making the most of opportunities to minister to those around you. As you grow, remain humble and come back to prayer regularly to thank God for using you to bless others.**

### **Walking with Jesus your Healer**

#### **Praying for healing**

**You will certainly encounter people who need all kinds of healing as you continue to walk with Jesus. Keep the story of Peter in your heart as you go, and when you encounter sick and hurting people, offer them the healing power of the name of Jesus which you have been given. It will never be your job to heal any of them. Your job is to pray, and as you do, God will work healing by His will and in His timing.**

### **Walking with Jesus your Soon Coming King**

#### **Sharing the Gospel**

**The story of Jesus has changed your life! You have a trail story, and sharing that story is one of the greatest gifts you can possibly give to another person. Make it a habit to revisit your story regularly, updating it as you discover new ways that Jesus has changed your life. Pray for opportunities to share your story with others and watch the ways that your story can be the spark that invites others onto the path of life with Jesus.**

# WALKING WITH JESUS YOUR BAPTIZER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

## PRACTICE YOUR GIFTS

As a Spirit-filled follower of Jesus, you have been given spiritual gifts so that you can be a blessing to others. You will learn more about the ways the Holy Spirit has gifted you as you commit to practicing them in the context of church community and out in the world. Resist the fear of failure and become a student of spiritual gifts by studying the Word and making the most of opportunities to minister to those around you. As you grow, remain humble and come back to prayer regularly to thank God for using you to bless others.





# WALKING WITH JESUS YOUR HEALER

## PRAYING FOR HEALING

You will certainly encounter people who need all kinds of healing as you continue to walk with Jesus. Keep the story of Peter in your heart as you go, and when you encounter sick and hurting people, offer them the healing power of the name of Jesus which you have been given. It will never be your job to heal any of them. Your job is to pray, and as you do, God will work healing by His will and in His timing.



# WALKING WITH JESUS YOUR SOON COMING KING

## SHARING THE GOSPEL

The story of Jesus has changed your life! You have a trail story, and sharing that story is one of the greatest gifts you can possibly give to another person. Make it a habit to revisit your story regularly, updating it as you discover new ways that Jesus has changed your life. Pray for opportunities to share your story with others and watch the ways that your story can be the spark that invites others onto the path of life with Jesus.



# - JOURNEY GUIDE CONTENT -

## Session 10 - CONCLUSION

### A FINAL PRAYER

**As a final act as a Foursquare Path Journey Group, take some time now to pray blessings over each other. Share how you are feeling about Foursquare Path coming to an end and the next phase of your personal journey with Jesus. Ask for prayer for any specific things you are concerned about. After listening to each person in your group, lay hands on each other one at a time and pray a blessing for their future travels.**

Prayer

Dismissal



## A FINAL PRAYER

As a final act as a Foursquare Path Journey Group, take some time now to pray blessings over each other. Share how you are feeling about Foursquare Path coming to an end and the next phase of your personal journey with Jesus. Ask for prayer for any specific things you are concerned about. After listening to each person in your group, lay hands on each other one at a time and pray a blessing for their future travels.

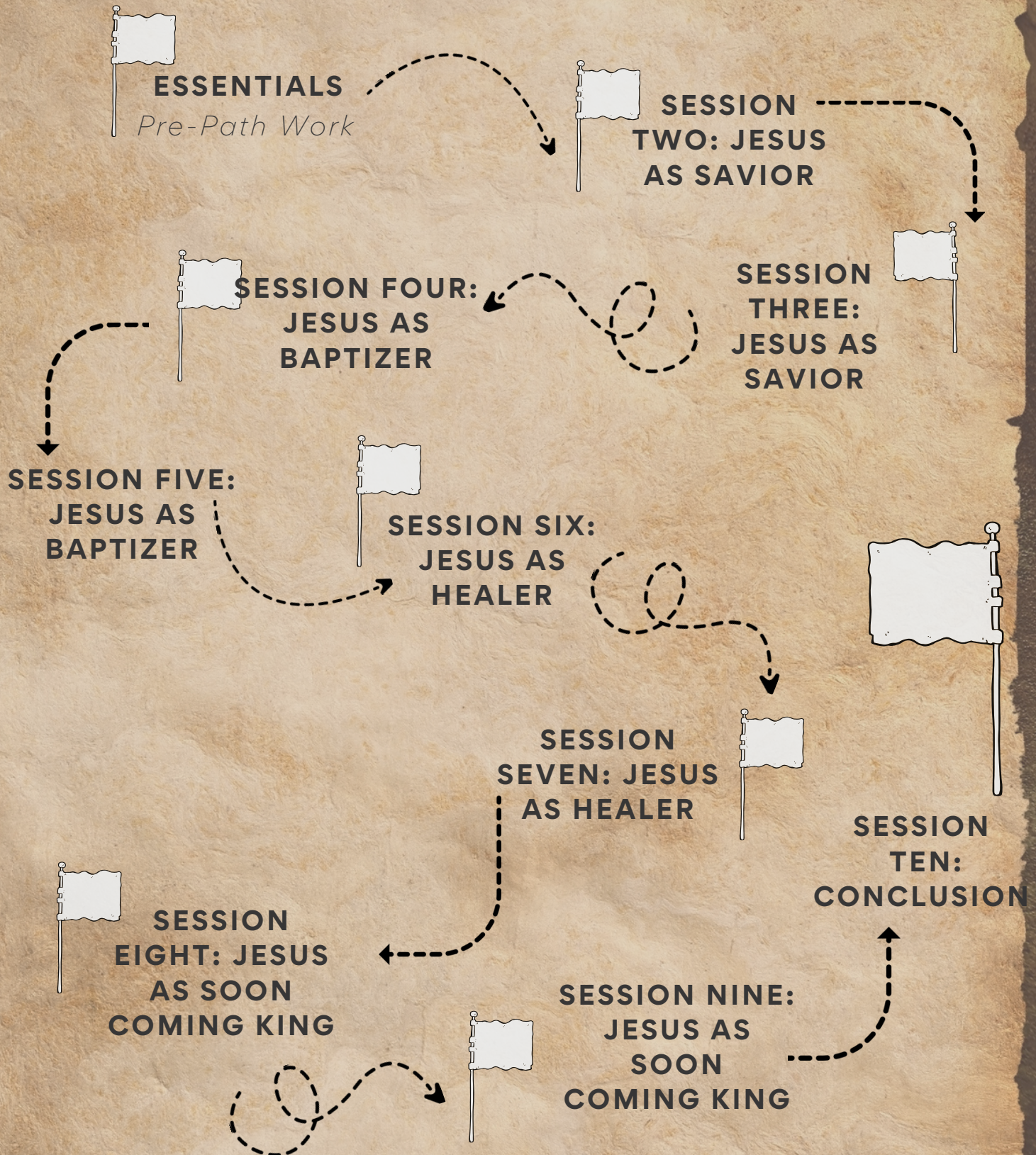








# PATH MAP







Congratulations! You have completed  
Foursquare Path!

DATE OF COMPLETION: \_\_\_\_\_



## Assessment

**Participants demonstrate an increased commitment to continued discipleship and fulfilling the Great Commission in their personal life and in the context of the partnership with a local church as demonstrated in verbal communication during an exit-interview after Foursquare Path engagement.**

Foursquare Path is designed for more than simple head-knowledge about Jesus. It is meant to lead participants on a life changing journey with Jesus. Through biblically rooted teachings, action steps, and group-based discussions, participants should be able to articulate new information about Jesus as well as growth with Him. While real life change can only be measured over long periods of time, it will be beneficial to receive feedback from participants upon completing Foursquare Path regarding their experience. Exit-interview survey questions will be developed before the initial Journey Groups complete their final week and each participant will be given an opportunity to respond upon completion of Foursquare Path.

Responses to exit-interview questions will be gathered in at least three different ways over the course of the initial launch. In the initial phase of launch, Journey Groups will be made up of members of a single local Foursquare church. This will allow for mt to personally conduct exit-interviews with each participant. As Foursquare Path is sent to multiple Foursquare churches, exit-interviews can be conducted by a designated leader within each church and the results can be sent to me via email. In the final phase, Foursquare Path will be available to anyone who would want to engage the content. At the point, exit-interview questions will be published on the Foursquare Path website and made available to participants upon completion of the final week. I will be able to review responses, determine if this benchmark is being realized, and if it is not,

have feedback which may help in updating the material to achieve the desired outcome. Like all participation in Foursquare Path, these exit-interviews will be optional.

**Participants demonstrate an increased ability to describe the foundational elements of the Foursquare Gospel as demonstrated by knowledge assessments before and after Foursquare Path engagement.**

Half of this benchmark will be blended with the previous one as a portion of what will be determined through exit-interview questions will be the participants ability to describe elements of the Foursquare Gospel. A simple survey will be created to gather participants' awareness of the foundational elements of the Foursquare Gospel. The development of this survey will mirror the development and location of the exit-interview questions. They will begin locally, at a single Foursquare Church, and eventually be available on the Foursquare Path website for all Journey Guides to use.

Participants will be asked by Journey Guides before the first session begins to take the survey to measure their growth and, as a result, the success of Foursquare Path. Journey Guides will also tell participants that there will be an exit-interview at the end of the final session to measure the growth of their knowledge against their original responses. Like all participation in Foursquare Path, these exit-interviews will be optional.



**Materials and presentations are high quality and clear as evidenced by participants' ability to articulate back to Journey Guides what they are learning during each session as well as after they have completed Foursquare Path.**

Foursquare Path materials have been developed with a professional appearance and clear language. The flow of the material is conducive for engaged learning in small groups with space for note taking and reflections throughout. The success of this benchmark will be determined as Journey Guides reflect on their experience as group leaders. Journey Guides will have the opportunity to provide feedback regarding this benchmark during debrief meetings after each final session. As stated in the following benchmark, it will be important to learn if Journey Guides struggle to engage participants without needing additional training. If Journey Guides demonstrate a trend of not having participants articulate their learning throughout the process, then updates to the material will be considered to support engagement and feedback along the way.

**Materials can be taught by guides with minimal training to produce high engagement during and after each session as evidenced by participants' completing weekly assignments and sharing positive feedback during interviews with participants and leaders in other churches.**

Foursquare Path materials have been developed in such a way that the experience as a participant should serve as the training required to become a Journey Guide. Exit-interviews will serve as an assessment of participants' learning and also gauge interest in becoming a Journey Guide in the future.

**At least 50 people completing Foursquare Path at Life Church within the first year after its launch, as evidenced by enrollment and completion records.**

With the maximum capacity of a Journey Group set at twelve people, it will take five full Journey Groups to reach this goal. My current launch plan maps out a schedule that includes preparing for up to twelve Journey Groups within my own local church before the end of the first year and requesting another group of Foursquare churches around the country to run Foursquare Path at least once within a year of launch. My hope is that in hindsight, this will have been a conservative goal as it appears that there is potential to greatly exceed fifty participants before an official public launch phase of Foursquare Path to the entire denomination.

**At least 90% of participants who begin Foursquare Path complete it on their first attempt as evidenced by enrollment and completion records.**

Foursquare Path materials have been designed to keep participants engaged in multiple learning styles. The pace of the experience is intended to keep participants engaged in learning, activity, and reflection throughout the entire process without being overwhelming to work-life-balance outside of Foursquare Path. Materials have been written at a high school reading level, which will enable a wide range of people to engage and understand, while the material itself is intended to be personally stretching without being overwhelming. Participants should be able to attend weekly sessions and engage recommended practices without negative disruption to personal life and schedules. Foursquare Path was designed with the intention of increasing the chances of completion for all participants.

**At least 3 other Foursquare churches committing to and successfully running Foursquare Path within the first year after its launch and offering feedback on content, design, and the ability for material to be used in various contexts based on interviews with facilitators and pastors after completion.**

This benchmark has been written into the Foursquare Path Launch Plan. Five Foursquare pastors have already expressed interest in running and providing feedback on Foursquare Path in their local churches. It is likely that this goal will be exceeded relatively quickly. Of particular interest will be the feedback each of these churches will generate which will be gathered both conversationally with the pastors and through formal exit and debrief interviews upon completion.



## **PROJECT LAUNCH PLAN**

### **Introduction**

The following Project Launch Plan outlines the work I intend to continue after completion of this program. An initial draft of the written material for Foursquare Path has been finished but is in need of field testing. This Launch Plan includes details about how access to Foursquare Path will increase over time, how feedback will be gathered, and how updates and future resources will be developed.

### **Project Description**

The Foursquare Church is positioned to benefit from accessible discipleship resources with a distinct Foursquare ethos.

Foursquare Path is a ten-week discipleship program designed to make disciples of Jesus within the Foursquare ethos. During Foursquare Path, Journey Groups of up to twelve are led by a Journey Guide through the four tenets about Jesus that are foundational to the Foursquare Gospel; that Jesus is Savior, Baptizer with the Holy Spirit, Healer, and Soon Coming King. After an introductory session Journey Groups walk learning, activating, discussing, and reflecting; taking two weeks to focus on each of the four tents. Foursquare Path concludes with a session of celebration and preparation, with suggested practices for continued engagement.

### **Audience**

The ultimate audience of Foursquare Path consists primarily of newer Christians who are interested in foundational discipleship within a local Foursquare church. Foursquare Path will be

made available to leaders of Foursquare churches, initially within the United States and potentially around the world through partnership with denominational leaders and through personal relationships with fellow Foursquare pastors. Local church leaders will be encouraged to make announcements during weekend gatherings and on other communications platforms and hold open enrollment for Journey Groups to be held within their local church on a regular basis. A website will eventually be launched where copies of Foursquare Path materials can be ordered for groups or churches.

### **Development Timeline**

- July 2022
  - Begin announcing Foursquare Path to Life Church for enrollment into Journey Groups of up to twelve people per group.
- August 27, 2022
  - Host a one-day training for a group of potential Journey Guides within Life Church.
  - The goal is to train twelve Journey Guides, which would allow for a capacity of up to 144 people enrolling in Foursquare Path.
- September 7 – November 9, 2022
  - Run up to twelve Journey Groups within Life Church, based on enrollment
- November 16, 2022
  - Host debrief meeting for Journey Guides to gather feedback.
- January 2023

- Update all materials as needed based on feedback from November meeting and publish an updated edition of Foursquare Path.
  - Send Foursquare Path to multiple Foursquare churches around the United States for testing in other local churches.
  - Partner with campus chaplains on the LIFE Pacific University campuses in California and Virginia for testing among student body.
  - Offer Foursquare Path at Life Church again
  - Begin development of a Foursquare Path website to host resources for further learning which would be developed in partnership with Foursquare leaders.
- April 2023 and beyond
    - Gather feedback from all Journey Guides who agreed to run Foursquare Path and update materials as needed.
    - Work with LIFE Pacific University to adapt Foursquare Path into a class
    - Work with Foursquare denominational leadership to develop a plan to offer Foursquare Path to all Foursquare churches within the United States, and beyond as interest and opportunity presents itself.

### **Iteration Process**

As noted in the Development Timeline above, feedback will be gathered from Journey Guides upon the completion of the first several sessions of Foursquare Path through debrief meetings. As Journey Guides provide feedback regarding Foursquare Path, the materials will be updated as needed. Eventually, this feedback will be gathered by means of two sets of survey questions which will be developed for Journey Guides and participants. These surveys will be



available on the Foursquare Path website and made available to Journey Guides and participants during their final session. Hosting these surveys digitally will allow for trends to be observed so materials can be adjusted as needed.

An additional benefit of participant surveys will be to gather questions and points of interest for further learning to be gathered. This information will help in deciding which topics to create resources for further learning to host on the Foursquare Path website. These resources will include articles, videos, and other forms of media, all of which will be created in partnership with Foursquare leaders.

## APPENDIX A—MILESTONE 1 THE NPO CHARTER

### **Personal Research Manifesto**

I will approach this NPO with open-mindedness, asking powerful questions and collaborating with practitioners of Foursquare discipleship and leadership development in ways that benefit people of all generations.

### **NPO Statement**

Using distinct steppingstones, the Foursquare Church will more effectively develop Foursquare disciples and leaders.

### **NPO Scope**

The research for this NPO will initially focus on a single local Foursquare church, but potentially impact the entire Foursquare denomination. Using younger members of the local Foursquare church I pastor as a case study it is possible that a relational discipleship and leadership development model would be developed and offered as a resource to the greater denomination. The costs associated with this NPO will be related to the purchase of books connected to the subject matter, as well as the expense required to develop the final product of the NPO, the nature of which is yet to be determined.

### **NPO Context**

The immediate context of this NPO will be a Foursquare church in Lancaster California called Life Church. As of this writing Life Church has about 230 people in regular attendance between two weekend services, offers livestreaming, and meets in other regular settings throughout the week. Life Church is a multigenerational and ethnically diverse church with

established children's, youth, and small group ministries, as well as a new young adult ministry. All of these gathering spaces will provide immediately accessible settings for research development and field testing of possible NPO outcomes.

The larger context of this NPO will be The Foursquare denomination. Foursquare is a global denomination of over 8.8 million members and 85,000 ministers worldwide. Since the audience of this NPO will be Foursquare ministers, it will be important to consider the potential context of this research being the more than 6,000 Foursquare ministers globally. However, considering cultural barriers, it will be much more plausible to focus the larger context of this NPO on the narrower field of over 6,000 licensed Foursquare ministers within the United States.

### **Root Causes**

The potential NPO root causes revealed in the Discovery Session and 1x1 interviews were associated with a generational divide, and younger generations who lack distinctively Foursquare spiritual disciplines. There is a perception that older people in Foursquare churches do not know how to communicate Foursquare distinctives to younger generations. Simultaneously, it is perceived that younger people are not interested in engaging in the same distinct Foursquare practices that older generations are familiar with. Stakeholders and interview subjects agreed that these issues may actually be rooted in a lack of relationship between generations rather than desire.

This lack of relationship between generations has created a vacuum of experiences in which younger people can learn distinct Foursquare discipleship and leadership development practices. The result is that while clear language about Foursquare distinctives does exist, and there are generations of people who know how to engage in Foursquare discipleship; there are younger

generations who lack awareness of that language and culture. They are, therefore, not being disciplined or developed in distinctly Foursquare culture.

### **Discovery Session Stakeholders**

- Foursquare Elder; Lancaster, California
- Foursquare Senior Pastor; Lancaster, California
- Foursquare Senior Pastor; Quartz Hill, California
- Foursquare Youth Leader; Lancaster, California
- Foursquare Youth Pastor; Lancaster, California

### **One-on-One Interviews**

- Foursquare Senior Pastor; Burbank, California
- Foursquare District Supervisor; Colorado
- Foursquare NextGen Leader; California

### **Academic Resources:**

This NPO will require research across a number of fields. It will be helpful to examine work related to generational relationships, both inside and outside of church contexts. I will research discipleship and leadership development throughout modern church contexts, and specifically within the Foursquare denomination. There are multiple resources that unpack Foursquare history, distinctives, and theology that will be valuable for assets for this research. Most recently, Sam Rockwell's *Identity Keystones* has been a great source of clear, modern language for Foursquare distinctives. It may also be helpful to research communication styles to see if there are ways to develop intergenerational language for disciple making and leadership development.



## **Appendix:**

### **Discovery Session Description**

My Discovery Session was held over four hours on November 9<sup>th</sup> with Sean Appleton, Adam Guzman, Sharon Lee, Danny Saltzman, and Chris Warwick in attendance. Each of these participants was chosen as a Stakeholder for my NPO because they are directly engaged in the lives of Millennials and Generation Z individuals and/or groups, as well as attending and leading in Foursquare churches. I walked these Stakeholders through the prescribed Discovery Session outline and found the results to be very helpful for my NPO focus.

I described my perception that the Foursquare denomination struggles to engage Millennials and Generation Z congregants with liturgical practices that equip them with a distinctly Foursquare spiritual formation. Using Post-It notes to share potential audiences of the NPO, followed by voting with dot stickers, the Stakeholders narrowed the focus of the NPO to a specific audience. With that audience in mind we then brainstormed possible symptoms, themes, and root causes for this NPO. Before taking a break, the Stakeholders had again used Post-It Notes, dot stickers, and healthy dialogue to gain a clear idea of the NPO before them, an audience they perceived to be most effective, and create initial language for the root causes and symptoms of the NPO.

After a twenty-minute break we gathered again and moved our focus to the potential outcomes if this NPO was resolved/addressed. Again, Stakeholders used Post-It notes to develop ideas around what a solution/response would look like. This section of the Discovery Session was much faster paced than the earlier part of the day. It seemed that a group consensus had been

established, and this increased their pace toward the conclusion. After discussing outcomes, I moved the Stakeholders toward the whiteboard I had set up with the *fill-in-the-blank* NPO statement prepared. This, as well as a review of the entire process, felt like ending the gathering on a valuable pay-off for the four hours these Stakeholders had invested into the process.

### **Discovery Statement**

Considering Foursquare Ministers, we've discovered a challenge to provide a "Foursquare experience" for younger generations, which is caused by multiple generational and cultural issues and a lack of spiritual disciplines. If solved, it would mean Foursquare ministers would be better equipped to connect and engage younger generations in a "Foursquare Experience".

### **Key Insights from Discovery Session**

Overall, the Stakeholders and I valued the time we spent together in this process. We felt that there was a strong sense of unity in our thinking and an ease at coming to clarity on the NPO and possible outcomes. This was an encouraging validation for my proposed NPO, while also raising an interesting question.

One Stakeholder asked at the end, "If we were able to agree on this issue this easily, why have we not done anything about it?" It may be interesting to look at what roadblocks there may be/have been in previous attempts to pass Foursquare culture on to younger generations. They also agreed that the final product will need to include a clear description for the term "Foursquare experience."

### **One-on-One Interview Discoveries**

Interview subject number one is a Foursquare District NextGen leader with multiple years of experience developing disciples and leaders. He agreed with the Discovery Session

findings and encouraged further research of intergenerational relationships. He encouraged using inviting, rather than accusatory language. He felt that accusations might produce defensiveness and limit helpful engagement.

Interview subject number two is a Foursquare District Supervisor who has authored significant work on Foursquare distinctives. He agreed with the Discovery Session findings and offered continued support. He stressed an opinion that responding to this NPO should not simply focus on structural models within the local church, but also balance structure with relational components.

Interview subject number three is a Foursquare Senior pastor. He agreed with the Discovery Session findings but challenged the language of the NPO statement. He felt that the word “provide” was too soft and would not produce tangible results. He encouraged refining the language to clarify that the goal is not simply to host gatherings, but to produce distinctly Foursquare disciples and leaders.

### **Synthesis**

Between the Discovery Session and interviews there was a consensus that this NPO is valid and would benefit the local church I pastor and potentially the larger Foursquare denomination. All parties felt that the best audience for this work would be current Foursquare ministers. The Discovery Session and interviews all produced agreement that a strength of Foursquare discipleship and leadership development has always been relational. Therefore, producing a resource for leaders to use in relational discipleship modes with younger generations was the agreed desired outcome. Because Foursquare is relational, this structured resource must also be designed to be engaged relationally and intergenerationally. Creating a resource

specifically for younger generations to read/use on their own would remove that relational dynamic and fail to solve the problem.

The Discovery Session helped to refine that clear language around the benefactors should be “Younger Generations” rather than Millennials and Generation Z, as this would make it possible for future generations after these to benefit from this work. Interview subjects did point to a need to make sure the desired outcome is clearly communicated in a way that produces tangible results without alienating any generational group.

Overall, the Discovery Session and interviews were encouraging and helpful to affirm the general direction and refine the specific focus of my NPO. It seems that this subject has touched on a need, and that Foursquare ministers are receptive to this work being developed as a tool for their discipleship and leadership development.

### **Next steps**

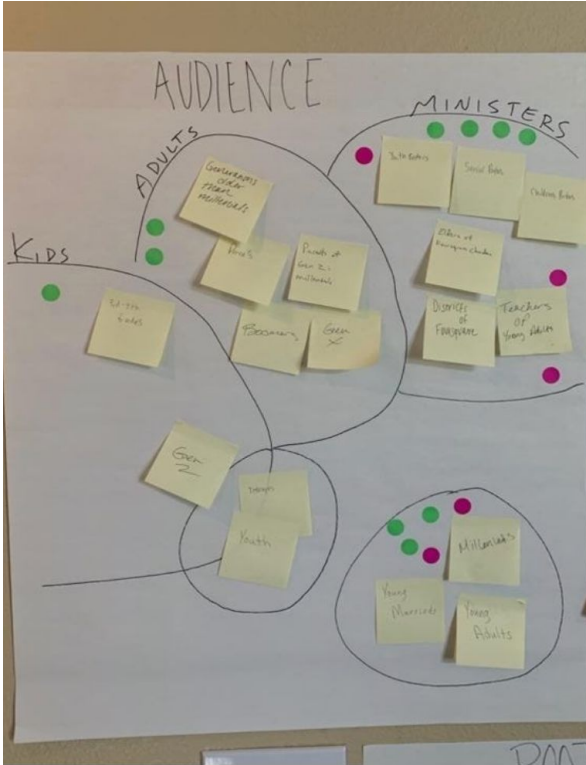
I plan to revisit the language of the NPO statement and consider clarifying a goal more tangible than “providing Foursquare experiences.” The goal may need to communicate a desire to develop disciples and leaders, rather than simply providing an experience. One of my interview subjects recommended doing some research on the “generational divide.” This will be a helpful direction to include as I frame out the bibliography for the NPO.

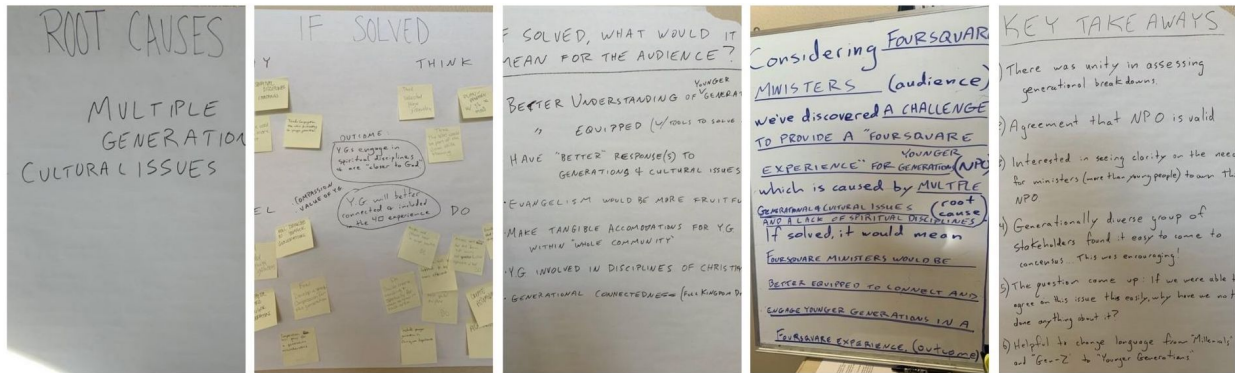
An idea emerged to potentially use this NPO as follow up to the *Foursquare Keystones* work produced by Sam Rockwell and develop a Foursquare discipleship and leadership development resource and call it *Foursquare Steppingstones*. This work would take the Foursquare distinctives developed by Rockwell and create a journey people can walk on with mentors and leaders to develop into Foursquare disciples who engage in distinct Foursquare



liturgy/practices; with additional steppingstones for leadership development that goes beyond the standard discipleship journey. This would essentially create a two-phase pathway for developing Foursquare members in phase one, and Foursquare leaders in phase two.

## Discovery Report Appendix







## APPENDIX B—MILESTONE 2 NPO TOPIC EXPERTISE ESSAY

### Introduction

The story of the Foursquare Church<sup>1</sup> goes back to the early 1900s and is rooted in four foundational tenets about the person and work of Jesus Christ. Aimee Semple McPherson coined the phrase “The Foursquare Gospel” while preaching a sermon on the Messianic imagery of Ezekiel 1:4-12. The Foursquare belief in Jesus Christ as Savior, Baptizer with the Holy Spirit, Healer, and Coming King has been the baseline of the rich and distinct culture of the Foursquare Church for nearly a hundred years. This story and heritage has been handed down through multiple generations of faithful Foursquare ministers and congregants. That is, until recently.

The early history of Foursquare was marked by incredible signs and wonders, culturally sensitive and impactful global missions, and dynamic church growth. This was the fruit of a movement full of people who deeply shared a clear and passionate understanding of what it meant to be Foursquare. In the past two decades, however, there appears to be a steady decline in the development of disciples who carry the distinct Foursquare ethos that was so rich in the early days of the movement. While attendance seems to be following the national average, members of local Foursquare churches in America seem to know little about what it means to be Foursquare.

This problem has ironically been exacerbated by excellent and necessary work done by denominational leadership over the past eleven years to “reimagine” the structure and identity of the Foursquare Church. President Glenn Burris made it the primary focus of his presidential tenure to complete what he called a reimagine process, focusing on five stakes designed to,

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<sup>1</sup> When the phrase “Foursquare Church” is used in this format it will refer to the denomination as a whole, where references to local Foursquare churches will be referred to as either “local Foursquare church(es)” or “local church(es)”.

“propel [Foursquare] forward in our united commitment to fulfill the Great Commission as a movement.”<sup>2</sup> Reimagine saw the commissioning a Presidential Task-Force and intellectual works that spoke directly to leadership about denominational structure. While this has been helpful and effective in clarifying denominational identity and strengthening the organizational structure, it has done little to equip local Foursquare pastors to reimagine ways to make disciples that carry the distinct Foursquare ethos.

If Foursquare leaders want to continue to write the powerful story of this movement, they are going to need to rediscover what it looks like to make Foursquare disciples of Christ in local churches. This discovery process would be well served to look to Foursquare’s theological roots and reimagine ways to develop disciples who hold Foursquare’s foundational tenets of faith regarding the person of Jesus Christ. This research project is aimed at developing an effective discipleship process for local Foursquare Churches. This research will require an understanding of the distinctly Foursquare pentecostal ethos, as well as processes of discipleship that will be effective for people attending Foursquare churches. A brief exegesis of key Biblical texts used by the Foursquare Church to support the four foundational tenets of the person and ministry of Jesus Christ and a synthesis of themes will complete this section.

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<sup>2</sup> President Burris’ five stakes of Reimagine were 1. Align everything Foursquare to the Great Commission; 2. Align the National Church Office and district offices to a catalytic culture; 3. Align 100 percent of the tithe to the field, local and district; 4. Align Foursquare Foundation to resourcing and supporting the Foursquare mission; 5. Align polity to provide property options for local churches. [http://s3.amazonaws.com/foursquare-org/assets/Five\\_Stakes.pdf](http://s3.amazonaws.com/foursquare-org/assets/Five_Stakes.pdf)

## Textual Discussions

### Jesus, the Savior: Romans 10:9-13

There are three important implications to highlight in this passage that pertain to the work of Jesus as Savior. First is the lack of further work required on Jesus' part to make salvation available. The work of Christ on the cross and by His resurrection was so complete that all the believing person needs to do to receive salvation is engage internal belief and external confession.<sup>3</sup> Salvation is possible by no other source or method but belief in and confession of Christ.<sup>4</sup> Salvation, therefore, is not a work Jesus must still accomplish, though it is a work Christ continues to complete through the new and recurring belief and confession of people throughout history. Salvation is given to those who recognize the ultimate Lordship and authority of Christ and humbly confess their own sin to Him.<sup>5</sup>

Paul's second implication is that internal belief and external confession are both uniquely vital components of the work of salvation. Belief in the heart results in righteousness; changing the identity of the believer from unrighteous to justified and no longer guilty of sin. Confession with the mouth results in salvation; moving the believer from being excluded from God's Kingdom to being welcomed into it.<sup>6</sup> Paul paints a picture of a holistic work being received by the believer. They are no longer held responsible for any past breaches against God's standard of

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<sup>3</sup> Carson, D.A., France, R.T., Motyer, J.A., and Wenham, G.J. *New Bible Commentary: 21st Century Edition*. Downers Grove, Illinois: Intervarsity Press, 1146.

<sup>4</sup> Acts 4:12

<sup>5</sup> Greenman, Jeffrey P., and George Kalantzis, eds. *Life in the Spirit: Spiritual Formation in Theological Perspective*. Downers Grove, Illinois: Intervarsity Press, 52.

<sup>6</sup> Alexander, T. Desmond, Brian S. Rosner, D.A. Carson, Graeme Goldsworthy, and Steve Carter eds. *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. Downers Grove, Illinois: Inter-Varsity Press, 742; 766.

righteousness. Simultaneously, they are no longer at risk of receiving any future punishment for past or future sin.

Paul's third implication is that this salvation through Jesus is not for the Jews alone but is available to everyone. Christ welcomes people from every tribe and tongue into the Kingdom where He is Lord of all who would believe.<sup>7</sup> This is not a new idea Paul has developed on his own. Paul's statement is rooted in the existing Biblical narrative that had been written to the Jews, proclaiming that salvation would one day be universally available.<sup>8</sup> For Paul, as for the Foursquare Church, Jesus is the fulfillment of the purpose and promise of God throughout history and is actively saving and making righteous all those who believe and confess that He is Lord.<sup>9</sup>

### **Jesus, the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit: Luke 3:16**

One of the distinct markers of Foursquare ethos among pentecostal movements is the emphasis on Jesus as the giver of the Holy Spirit. This is seen in multiple places throughout the New Testament; as early as His baptism where John clearly states that while human ministers baptize with water, Jesus is the baptizer with the Holy Spirit and fire. After Jesus was baptized the Holy Spirit empowered Jesus to preach, heal, and cast out demons. The baptism of the Holy Spirit equips the believer in Christ with that same power for ministry.<sup>10</sup> Jesus promised to

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<sup>7</sup> Wright, Christopher J.H. *The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative*. (Downers Grove, Illinois: Intervarsity Press), 248.

<sup>8</sup> Isaiah 28:16

<sup>9</sup> Wright, *The Mission of God*, 528.

<sup>10</sup> Duffield, Guy P., and Van Cleave, Nathaniel M. *Foundations of Pentecostal Theology*. Rev. Ed. Volume 1. Los Angeles, California: Foursquare Media, 239.



provide the same source of power to all His current and future disciples before ultimately fulfilling that promise on the day of Pentecost.<sup>11</sup>

John's description of the work of Jesus is a baptism of both the Holy Spirit, which produces powerful ministry in the mode of Jesus Himself; and fire, which is an image of the purification that is a result of the salvation Jesus offers.<sup>12</sup> While Jesus performs both of these functions, they are distinct elements of His ministry to save mankind and to baptize the believer with the Holy Spirit. The Foursquare Church believes that salvation and Holy Spirit baptism are separate events that are both completed by the response of Jesus to faith and receptivity of the believer.<sup>13</sup>

The surrounding story in Luke's Gospel of Jesus' baptism is also a significant marker of the ministry of Jesus. It was not until Jesus had been baptized in water and by the Holy Spirit that He began His powerful public ministry. Luke shows Jesus emphasizing this same progression for His disciples before ascending to Heaven, telling them to wait in Jerusalem until the promised Holy Spirit was sent to empower them.<sup>14</sup> It was not until after Jesus baptized His disciples with the Holy Spirit that they were released to begin the ministry work of the New Testament Church. While Jesus' baptism with fire was distinctly for saving purification, His baptism with the Holy Spirit is the empowerment needed for the work of ministry.

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<sup>11</sup> John 15:23; Acts 1:5;8; Acts 2:33

<sup>12</sup> Carson, et al., *New Bible Commentary*. 986.

<sup>13</sup> Lim, David. *Spiritual Gifts, A Fresh Look: Commentary & Exhortation from a Pentecostal Perspective*. Springfield, Missouri: Gospel Publishing House, 92.

<sup>14</sup> Luke 24:49

## Jesus, the Healer: 1 Peter 2:24

Peter's use of the word 'healed' in 1 Peter 2:24 brings the subject of healing to the table alongside the eternal significance of salvation. While the Greek word<sup>15</sup> used here specifically denotes physical healing, the common understanding during Peter's day was that Jesus' healing ministry was holistic. Jesus is the healer of the entire person; spirit, soul, and body.<sup>16</sup> Peter's reference to Isaiah 53 and his inclusion of physical healing into the conversation about salvation paints the picture that Peter believed healing was part of Christ's saving work. Peter ties these themes together and declares that by being saved by Jesus, one could also become a healed or whole person by the same Jesus.

Just as with salvation being a finished work that Jesus has accomplished, healing was also paid for by the stripes Jesus bore on His way to the cross. Healing is as much a work of the believer as salvation is; in that it is not the believer's work at all. Healing has been accomplished by Jesus and can only be received in faith by the believer.

However, part of the beauty of Jesus' healing miracles being tied to His saving work is in the reminder of future hope. As with the eternal hope that salvation promises, healing miracles of body, spirit, and soul also point to the future hope of ultimate, complete, and eternal healing that Jesus will one day usher in for all who believe.<sup>17</sup> In the same way that this future hope of salvation allows the believer to die to sin and live to righteousness; Christ offers healing work

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<sup>15</sup> Strong, James. *The Strongest Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of The Bible*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2337. — Greek entry 2390: ἰάθητε (iathēte) Verb - Aorist Indicative Passive - 2nd Person Plural: To heal, generally of the physical, sometimes of spiritual, disease. Middle voice of apparently a primary verb; to cure.

<sup>16</sup> Lim, *Spiritual Gifts*, 282

<sup>17</sup> Sandnes, Karl Olav, Henriksen, Jan-Olav. *Jesus the Healer: A Gospel for the Body*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing, 123.

that allows the dead to come fully alive in Him; physically, spiritually, mentally, and emotionally.

### **Jesus, the Soon Coming King: Acts 1:11**

The conviction that Jesus is the soon coming King is not only what ties Foursquare theology together; it is also what activates that theology. The opening chapter of the book of Acts recounts Jesus' ascension into Heaven, accompanied by two angels. Jesus ascended as the risen Savior and King where He now sits at the right hand of the Father.<sup>18</sup> The angels described that the future return of Jesus will be in the exact same fashion as He left; in literal, bodily form.<sup>19</sup> Furthermore, it would seem that though there is no reference given to the time of this return in this or any other passage of Scripture. Jesus' return is a promise the believer can look forward to at a future time.

However, this promise must set the believer in motion. Jesus had given his followers clear marching orders to make disciples of all nations.<sup>20</sup> Jesus' Great Commission was a call to the urgent and active work of evangelism because His return is imminent. The announcement of the return of Christ is not an invitation to gaze into the clouds waiting for that day.

The angels in Acts 1:11 seem almost surprised that the disciples were not getting a move on.<sup>21</sup> The imagery of the angel's reaction to the disciples is almost comical. It's as if a gun had just been fired to begin a great and important race, and yet the runners stare off into space. The

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<sup>18</sup> Hebrews 1:3

<sup>19</sup> Duffield, Guy P., and Van Cleave, Nathaniel M. *Foundations of Pentecostal Theology*. Rev. Ed. Volume 2. Los Angeles, California: Foursquare Media, 195.

<sup>20</sup> Matthew 28:18-20

<sup>21</sup> Carson et al., *New Bible Commentary: 21st Century Edition*. 1070.

angel, expecting them to get a move on, cries out, “*What are you doing? Get to work!*” The believer should read this encounter and adopt the same sense of urgency for disciple making. The conviction that the imminent return of Jesus should mobilize believers to evangelism has been deeply rooted in Foursquare heritage. Foursquare’s belief-statement reflects this same passion that “the church’s primary responsibility is taking the gospel to the entire world and making disciples.”<sup>22</sup> Practically speaking, this commitment to evangelism has driven Foursquare’s missions-minded to become significantly larger outside the United States than within though there has been increased focus on state-side evangelism in recent years.<sup>23</sup>

### **Synthesis of Themes, Values, and Commitments**

The Foursquare Church is deeply committed to the person of Jesus Christ as Savior, Healer, Baptizer with the Holy Spirit, and Soon Coming King. Differing from a classically Pentecostal denomination, the marker of being Foursquare is not evidenced by the demonstration of required gifts or expressions. Rather, the Foursquare ethos places a focus first on the personal relationship with Jesus; believing that it is Jesus who initiates the believer’s relationship with the Holy Spirit; that Jesus is the source of the believer’s authority and power, as well as their hope and peace.

Until recently, Foursquare heritage has been passed on for nearly a hundred years through a commitment to relational discipleship that has framed the way Foursquare has grown around the world. The mandate to teach future disciples the lessons and lifestyle of Jesus is not unique to Foursquare, but there is a distinct Foursquare ethos that should shape the way discipleship is

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<sup>22</sup> “What The Foursquare Church Believes”, The Foursquare Church, Last Modified 2020, [https://foursquare-org.s3.amazonaws.com/resources/Print\\_Brochure\\_What\\_Foursquare\\_Believes\\_English.pdf](https://foursquare-org.s3.amazonaws.com/resources/Print_Brochure_What_Foursquare_Believes_English.pdf)

<sup>23</sup> “Foursquare Annual Report, 2019”, The Foursquare Church, Last Modified, 4/24/2020, <https://foursquare.sharefile.com/share/view/s0c9e90dd80141c0b>



done in local Foursquare churches. There is a rich, biblical foundation on which the Foursquare Church has built and replicated this dynamic legacy.

The following section of this paper will examine the key voices throughout the history of the Foursquare Church that built on this biblical foundation and helped to frame its distinct ethos. Examining these historical and emerging voices will clarify the image of what has made Foursquare a stand-out voice amidst the pentecostal choir. The goal of this research is to discover what legacy-discipleship-tools exist that can be redesigned for modern use in local Foursquare churches.

A current assumption and potential limitation to this research is that there may be a lack of key voices that have created those desired tools. If that lack is real, the opportunity for creating a new tool would present itself with great hope to revitalize local Foursquare church discipleship practices, and hopefully the entire denomination with a passion to train up disciples who commit their lives to all that it means to serve and worship a Jesus who is Savior, Baptizer with the Holy Spirit, Healer, and Soon Coming King.

### **Topic History**

The International Church of the Foursquare Gospel was founded in 1927 by Aimee Semple McPherson following a seventeen-year period of evangelistic crusades, church planting, and missionary training and commissioning.<sup>24</sup> The ministry of Sister Aimee<sup>25</sup> and the Foursquare Church were marked by large numbers of salvations and physical miracles through powerful

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<sup>24</sup> “History”, The Foursquare Church, Last Modified 2020, Accessed February 23, 2020, <https://www.foursquare.org/about/history>.

<sup>25</sup> Female ministers in Foursquare churches were commonly referred to by the honorific ‘sister’ during Foursquare’s early years. This practice no longer continues as licensed Foursquare ministers of either gender are now given the title ‘pastor’, with the exception of Aimee Semple McPherson, who is still commonly referred to among Foursquare Church members, leaders, and historians as ‘Sister Aimee’.

preaching about the work of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. While the denomination grew in conjunction with demonstrative signs and wonders, Foursquare doctrine is deeply rooted in Scripture.

Sister Aimee's ministry style and passion was greatly inspired by her first husband, Robert Semple<sup>26</sup>, A.B. Simpson, and her time connected to The Salvation Army, the Methodist Church, and the Assemblies of God.<sup>27</sup> Aimee was committed to preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ above all other topics; a commitment that set the tone for the entirety of her evangelistic and denominational work. Aimee worked tirelessly to send missionaries around the world from the hub of Foursquare created in Echo Park, California.

To that end, L.I.F.E. Bible College was established at Angelus Temple in 1923 as a Lighthouse of International Foursquare Evangelism. Known today as LIFE Pacific University, the school has developed multiple programs all geared toward training ministry-minded people across multiple fields. The original heartbeat, which still remains, was a desire to develop and send missionaries and ministers to the field around the world and around the United States.

Sister Aimee had a unique and impactful ministry that set the bar for the Foursquare denomination. She was the first woman to receive a broadcast license, would stage elaborate musicals, and preach the Gospel with passion and creativity that set the Foursquare Church apart among similar denominations. The generosity and compassion of Foursquare was equal to its miraculous history. During the Great Depression, the Angelus Temple Commissary fed over 1.5

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<sup>26</sup> Robert and Aimee were married from August of 1908 to August of 1910. Robert died of malaria while the couple served as missionaries in China. Aimee returned to America in November of 1910 as a single mother where she eventually married Herold McPherson in 1912 and began her evangelistic ministry that would evolve into the International Church of The Foursquare Gospel.

<sup>27</sup> VanCleve, Nathaniel M., *The Vine and The Branches*, Los Angeles, California. International Church of The Foursquare Gospel, 7.

million people. The Foursquare Relief program<sup>28</sup> provided resources to more people in those days than Los Angeles County by a large margin.

However, what caused Foursquare to stand out among Pentecostal denominations was not simply the style of ministry, the creation of a Bible College, or even the many signs and wonders. Aimee Semple McPherson established a movement that was centered on the person and ministry of Jesus Christ. As expressed above, the Foursquare Gospel is built on the foundational belief that Jesus Christ is the initiator of salvation, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and healing; and He will be the focal point of the eternal establishment of a new Heaven and Earth as the soon coming King. This foundation is so vital to Foursquare identity that it has been written into denominational bylaws that every local Foursquare Church must have the text of Hebrews 13:8 clearly displayed in the sanctuary<sup>29</sup>. Placing the majority of the attention of ministry on the person and ministry of Jesus while experiencing powerful manifestations of the Holy Spirit served to make the Foursquare Church distinct since its inception.

This Foursquare heritage has been passed on throughout the denomination's rich history through a commitment to relational discipleship that has framed the way Foursquare has grown around the world. The mandate to teach future disciples the lessons, lifestyle, and ministry expressions of Jesus is not unique to Foursquare, but there is a distinct Foursquare ethos that is intended to shape the way discipleship is done in Foursquare churches.

A significant turning point for the Foursquare Church came in 2009 when Glenn Burris became the denominations 8th president. This leadership transition occurred at a time when

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<sup>28</sup> A ministry still running today under the name Foursquare Disaster Relief [https://leader.foursquare.org/prod/FoursquareLeader/Ministries/Disaster\\_Relief/FoursquareLeader/Content/Ministries/FDR.aspx](https://leader.foursquare.org/prod/FoursquareLeader/Ministries/Disaster_Relief/FoursquareLeader/Content/Ministries/FDR.aspx)

<sup>29</sup> "Bylaws" Last Accessed, April 26, 2020. [https://foursquare-leader.s3.amazonaws.com/about\\_us/business/Bylaws\\_English.pdf](https://foursquare-leader.s3.amazonaws.com/about_us/business/Bylaws_English.pdf)

Foursquare was joining many other denominations across the country in examining important questions about its future in a rapidly changing world. Toward the end of Burris' first of two five-year terms as the Foursquare president he introduced a plan to restructure the Foursquare Church organizationally around "Five Stakes of Alignment". The five stakes were 1. Align everything Foursquare to the Great Commission; 2. Align the National Church Office and district offices to a catalytic culture; 3. Align 100 percent of the tithe to the field, local and district; 4. Align Foursquare Foundation to resourcing and supporting the Foursquare mission; 5. Align polity to provide property options for local churches.

Burris' plan, which was later renamed *Reimagine*, dramatically impacted the Foursquare Church. Streamlining processes; shrinking the international office and reducing the National Church budget were among the changes made. Districts were restructured; restructuring districts and empowering district supervisors to release greater funding and training to local Foursquare pastors; increasing national leadership authority to leaders of nations globally; and positioning leaders at every level of the denomination to have access to clearer and more effective resources to accomplish the mission of the denomination. These are several highlights among the incredible structural reorganization that took place and has positioned Foursquare for the future. Leadership development tools have been discovered and released the structure of district leadership has been positioned to support and empower excellent local church leadership. It appears that Glenn Burris' legacy will be as a visionary leader who successfully restructured the Foursquare Church to effectively make disciples in an increasingly fluid global culture and primed the pump for future leaders to discover new ways to do exactly that.



Much of the cultural discovery and change came as the result of a Presidential Task-Force that was created in 2010.<sup>30</sup> This Task-Force was aimed at discovering stuck places in organizational and missional areas of the Foursquare Church and suggesting roadmaps for future forward movement. Their focus was largely directed at the five stakes outlined by Glenn Burris; Their findings were periodically presented to the denomination's board of directors and eventually approved by Foursquare licensed ministers.

One of the significant pieces of work developed during the Reimagine process that may be the most relevant in relation to the topic of this research was the focus on the distinct Foursquare identity. Sam Rockwell, a Foursquare pastor and district supervisor, worked with several other scholars to compile an influential project. Rockwell's work provided updated language for the distinct Foursquare ethos that had been clear in the early days of the denomination but seemed somewhat elusive to describe in recent years. This project will be examined briefly in the following section.

It should be noted that the Foursquare Reimagine process also included multiple denominational conventions during which the themes were specifically focused on the four foundational tenets beliefs about the person and ministry of Jesus Christ. These convention themes were geared toward the goal of refreshing the language around these tenets for Foursquare leaders at all levels of influence. If there was any force working against the focus being on these themes over the four year between 2016 and 2019, it would have been tensions around structural changes due to Reimagine and the focus on the 2019 presidential election for which a decision had been made to begin a year early and extend through 2019's convention.

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<sup>30</sup> "Reimagine Foursquare Timeline", The Foursquare Church. Last Modified 2020, Last Accessed April 26th, 2020. [https://foursquare-leader.s3.amazonaws.com/about\\_us/what\\_we\\_do/ReimagineTimeline.pdf](https://foursquare-leader.s3.amazonaws.com/about_us/what_we_do/ReimagineTimeline.pdf).

How the focus on the themes of Jesus Christ as Savior, Baptizer with the Holy Spirit, Healer, and Coming King was received by local Foursquare pastors cannot be known through currently available research. That said, these convention themes served, at the very least, as a reminder of Foursquare's foundational tenets. That they are significant to the heartbeat of the Foursquare Church, and that they must be the focus of future Foursquare discipleship.

The Foursquare Church has a rich history of disciple making. Foursquare discipleship, like all other Christian discipleship, points the believer to the person of Jesus Christ. The result of Foursquare discipleship should be that the disciple has a strong belief in and relationship with Christ, as well as a clear understanding of and personal engagement with the ministry of Jesus Christ in and through their life. Aimee Semple McPherson intended that end when she launched L.I.F.E. Bible College, when she founded the denomination, and every time a new minister was commissioned to bring the Foursquare Gospel anywhere around the world.

Over decades the discipleship tools that produced clarity around the daily impact of the person and ministry of Jesus Christ began to fade into the background. By the time Glenn Burris took the helm there was a great need for structural and strategic leadership to move the denomination into the future. As a result of the foresight and leadership of Glenn Burris, Foursquare is more self-aware and better positioned to train leaders and disciples who effectively make distinctly Foursquare disciples that they have been in the better part of two decades. With the election of Randy Remington, a local Foursquare church pastor from Beaverton Oregon, as the next president of the movement, Foursquare is presented with a great opportunity. To develop modern, effective discipleship tools that produce disciples who live and breathe what it means to be Foursquare and daily engage with Jesus as Savior, Baptizer with the Holy Spirit, Healer, and Soon Coming King.

## Key Voices

### Aimee Semple McPherson

It would be difficult, if not impossible to argue that there is a more significant voice in the history of the Foursquare Church than its founder, Aimee Semple McPherson. During a crusade event in Oakland California in 1920 Aimee was preaching from Ezekiel 1:4-10 when she was suddenly struck with an idea. After a brief pause she said, “Why—why it’s the Foursquare Gospel. The Foursquare Gospel!”<sup>31</sup> She went on to talk about the four faces in Ezekiel’s vision being representations of the complete ministry of Jesus as “Christ the Savior, Christ the Baptizer with the Spirit, Christ the Healer, and Christ the Coming King.”<sup>32</sup>

Aimee’s assessment of this passage is supported by other Biblical texts that depict Jesus in these modes. Sister Aimee was not alone in her thinking that this text depicted Christ in the human face as the Son of God who “shared in the glory of the Father; the ox with that of his sacrifice; the lion with that of his sovereignty over Israel, as the Lion of the tribe of Judah;<sup>33</sup> the eagle with that of his bearing his people as on eagles' wings, into the highest heavens<sup>34</sup>.”<sup>35</sup> It was on the basis of this framework of the ministry of Jesus as Savior, Baptizer with the Holy Spirit, Healer, and Coming King that the Foursquare Church was founded and developed it’s distinct pentecostal ethos.

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<sup>31</sup> Van Cleave, Nathaniel, M., *The Vine and the Branches*, (Los Angeles: The Foursquare Church, 1992), 8

<sup>32</sup> Hayford, Jack, and Moore, S. David, *The Charismatic Century* (New York, New York: Warner Faith, 2006), 146

<sup>33</sup> Revelation 5:5

<sup>34</sup> Exodus 19:4; Deuteronomy 32:11

<sup>35</sup> “Ezekiel 1,” Pulpit Commentary, Bible Hub, Last Modified September 25, 2018, Accessed 2.23.2020 <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/pulpit/ezekiel/1.htm>.

During Sister Aimee's ministry she consistently experienced great miraculous expressions during most of the gatherings she led. However, she would regularly work to tone down what she believed to be hyper-emotionalism, sometimes completely shutting down outbursts.<sup>36</sup> While encouraging expressions of the Holy Spirit, Sister Aimee's leadership established a significant element of the distinct Foursquare pentecostal ethos that the expressions of the Holy Spirit were not meant to take focus away from the person and ministry of Jesus in and through His Church. As a result, Sister Aimee developed a balanced culture within the Foursquare Church, significantly differentiating the denomination from among traditional pentecostal movements.

#### **Guy P. Duffield & Nathaniel M. Van Cleave**

Nathaniel Van Cleave made two significant written contributions to the Foursquare Church that are still used to frame the Foursquare theology and ethos today. His *Vine and The Branches* laid out the history of the movement from Sister Aimee's early days through the early 1990s.<sup>37</sup> Van Cleave laid out a narrative of the development of the polity and culture of the Foursquare Church that remains the comprehensive work on the subject.

More significantly, Van Cleave partnered with Guy Duffield to develop *Foundations of Pentecostal Theology*. Originally published in 1983 and revised and updated as a two-volume work in 2016, *Foundations* continues to be required reading for all Foursquare ministers as well as for students at Life Pacific University. The goal of their writing was to present a sound pentecostal theology for the Foursquare Church that was not simply based on experiential

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<sup>36</sup> Hayford, Jack W., Moore, David S., *The Charismatic Century*. New York, New York: Warner Faith, 145

<sup>37</sup> Van Cleave, *The Vine and The Branches*.



moments but was deeply rooted in the Word of God and the person and teachings of Jesus Christ.<sup>38</sup>

*Foundations* unpacks the pentecostal theology regarding the word of God, the fall of man, and the Trinity. Of specific interest in relation to this research is the theological work focusing on the work of both Jesus and the Holy Spirit in and through the Church. Entire sections of this two-volume theology are dedicated to the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the resulting fruit and ministry of those who have been baptized. Building on that foundation Duffield and Van Cleave explain the role of the Church in pentecostal theology. While not a tool directly used in the discipleship of members of Foursquare Churches, there is no question that there is no effective discipleship done in any Foursquare context that does not lean heavily on the theology laid out by Guy Duffield and Nathaniel Van Cleave.

### **Jack Hayford**

Jack Hayford is easily one of the most well-known Foursquare pastors in the denomination's history. Hayford served as the senior pastor of Church on The Way, a Foursquare church in Van Nuys, California, for thirty years. During that time the church grew in number and prominence, eventually positioning Hayford as one of the most influential pastors in Foursquare. His impactful teaching ministry influenced believers and leaders within and outside of the Foursquare Church.

Similar to Sister Aimee's balanced approach to the ministry of signs and wonders, Hayford's church members experienced dynamic manifestations of the Holy Spirit. He also made sure to accompany these signs and wonders with clear teaching about how and why the Holy Spirit would or would not function in certain ways. Hayford pushed back against what he

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<sup>38</sup> Van Cleave and Duffield, *Foundations of Pentecostal Theology*, xii.

called imbalance in the charismatic movement and taught that the remedy could be found only in the Cross of Christ.<sup>39</sup> Again, a key voice in Foursquare history moving pentecostal conversations about the dynamic work of the Holy Spirit back toward a focus on Jesus.

The balanced leadership of Jack Hayford extended beyond the walls of Church On The Way and their teaching ministry through his extensive book catalogue. Author of more than eighty books, many of which have been translated into multiple languages and used as ministry training and discipleship resources around the world, Hayford's voice and sound pentecostal theology were, for a time, synonymous with the Foursquare Church. Hayford's worldwide influence was significant enough that after turning down many such requests, he eventually accepted and won a nomination to serve as Foursquare's 7th president. Hayford's leadership set the stage for the Reimagine process led by Glenn Burris as Hayford resigned from the role a year before his first term concluded; citing direction from the Holy Spirit to do so.

### **John L. Amstutz**

Another Foursquare pastor who has developed important work related to this research topic is John Amstutz. Amstutz's *Disciples of all Nations* is possibly the closest work that exists to the research focus of this project. Amstutz wrote a framework for making disciples that focuses on the purpose and power of Jesus as He gives the Holy Spirit to His Church to accomplish those purposes. While Amstutz does not build his model around the four foundational Foursquare tenets regarding Jesus ministry, he certainly describes a process for disciple making that fits perfectly within the distinct Foursquare ethos.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>39</sup> "A Remedy For Imbalance", Jack Hayford Ministries, Last Modified 2020, Last Accessed April 27th, 2020. <https://www.jackhayford.org/teaching/articles/a-remedy-for-imbalance>

<sup>40</sup> Amstutz, John L., *Disciples of All Nations*. Los Angeles, California: Foursquare Missions Press.

To emphasize the influence of Amstutz's work, the denomination used his book as the inspiration for producing a clear four-stage model for national church development. The four stages Amstutz inspired are Initiate, Nurture, Expand, and Send. This model continues to be used as a model for leadership development, church planting, and Foursquare missions work.

### **Glenn Burris**

President of the Foursquare Church, architect and leader through the Reimagine process; Glenn Burris has been the leading voice of the Foursquare Church for the past eleven years. His ultimate directive has been to position Foursquare to effectively be able to walk out their original purpose of being a "Great Commission Church."<sup>41</sup> Examined in the previous section, the future development of effective discipleship tools that this research project may develop would be presented to a denomination that is better positioned for fresh discipleship tools than it has been in many years. Glenn Burris will not lead the Foursquare Church as new tools are developed and implemented; but he is responsible for the healthy environment where there is hope to believe that they will make many new Foursquare disciples.

### **Sam Rockwell and Aaron Friesen**

As a result of his own dissertation work<sup>42</sup> and the book commissioned by Glenn Burris, Sam Rockwell produced potentially the most significant Foursquare identity work since the early days of the movement. Rockwell's *Identity Keystones* describes the distinct pentecostal ethos of the Foursquare Church in more clear language than can be found anywhere else. Rockwell pointed out that while Foursquare has a strong history of disciple making according to the person

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<sup>41</sup> "Five Points of Alignment", [http://s3.amazonaws.com/foursquare-org/assets/Five\\_Stakes.pdf](http://s3.amazonaws.com/foursquare-org/assets/Five_Stakes.pdf).

<sup>42</sup> Rockwell, Sam, Silverman, Robert J., Baca, Leonard, Haynes, Carter, Moore, David, and Murphy-Shigematsu, Stephen. Denominational Identity and Ministerial Identity Congruence within the Foursquare Church, 2013, ProQuest Dissertations and Theses.

and ministry of Jesus Christ, the methods of the movement have changed over the years. Rockwell argues that this change, which has resulted in a decline in disciple making, has been a result of a loss of organizational identity.<sup>43</sup> Rockwell's intention was to help the Foursquare Church regain a sense of identity that would help them regain their discipleship traction.

Rockwell worked with the Presidential Task-Force during the Reimagine process to determine what it was that made the Foursquare Church distinct among pentecostal movements. They were able to define six *Global Distinctives* which are Kingdom Partnerships, Sound Doctrine, Empowering Leadership Culture, Foursquare Family Relationships, Spirit Empowerment, and Shared Mission. Each of the distinctives are unpacked and connected to cultural practices within Foursquare that reveal them as vital elements of the denomination's culture.

A chapter contributed by Aaron Friesen examines Foursquare's distinct pentecostal ethos. The elements of the Foursquare ethos the Friesen argues differentiate Foursquare from other pentecostal denominations are related to their engagement with the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the evidence of speaking in tongues. The primary distinction between Foursquare and Classical Pentecostalism is the phrasing that speaking in tongues is an initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, rather than it being a required evidence. Friesen also describes the engagement with healing, worship and Scripture to be distinct for Foursquare practice.

The distinct Foursquare ethos regarding healing draws on the original influence of its Founder, Sister Aimee. Friesen describes the Foursquare belief about healing as honoring the work of the Holy Spirit in healing but emphasizes that it is Jesus who is the Healer. In line with the present-day engagement with the Holy Spirit that the Foursquare Church encourages, the

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<sup>43</sup> Rockwell, Sam. *Identity Keystones: What Makes Us Foursquare*. Los Angeles, California: The Foursquare Church, 14.



Foursquare ethos regarding worship and Scripture are equally important. Rooted deeply in Biblical truth, Friesen argues that Sister Aimee's intention with Scripture and worship was to present dynamic and relevant worship and teaching.<sup>44</sup>

### **Synthesis & Conclusion**

The distinct Foursquare ethos was built on the foundational belief that Jesus Christ is Savior, Baptizer with the Holy Spirit, Healer, and Coming King. Aimee Semple McPherson coined the phrase *The Foursquare Gospel* and established the movement on the spark of those words; and it is clear that her vision set a fire that spread around the world. Sister Aimee's preaching and teaching resulted in powerful signs and wonders but was always drawing attention back to the person and work of Jesus Christ. This focus on Jesus who commissions and partners with the Holy Spirit and the believer caused the Foursquare Church to march to a unique rhythm among pentecostal movements. A rhythm set by Aimee Semple McPherson that has reverberated around the world in the lives of millions of believers proudly walking in the middle of the road of extremism.

There seems to have been no tension in the work that supported and strengthened the foundational tenets of the Foursquare Gospel. Guy Duffield and Nathaniel Van Cleave, Jack Hayford, and the increasing number of L.I.F.E. Bible College graduates preaching the Foursquare Gospel across America and around the world all championed Sister Aimee's polity. Looking back over Foursquare's nearly century-long history however, it is evident that while there are no significant dissenting voices among Foursquare scholars, there does seem to be an overall lack of scholarly voices within the denomination.

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<sup>44</sup> Rockwell, Sam, and Aaron Friesen, contributors. *Identity keystones*, Chapter 4.

While it has certainly been one of the strengths of the Foursquare ethos to empower and release creative expressions of Foursquare doctrine in local church settings, it also seems to have created a vacuum of clear, guiding tools for making distinctly Foursquare disciples in those local churches. This means that the effectiveness of the disciple making process in each local church to produce believers who can articulate what it means to be Foursquare has been dependent on the effectiveness of the local pastoral leadership in each church. While some churches have excelled in clarifying the ways the four tenets of Jesus' person and ministry should impact the believer's daily life, other churches have completely neglected the framework all together.

The Foursquare Church has absolutely not lost the narrative that Jesus is the head of the Church. Foursquare continues to place Jesus at the center of the conversation for the identity and future purpose of the denomination. However, practical training made available to Foursquare ministers over the past decade has been primarily, if not almost exclusively, centered on leadership methods. Few resources have been given to demonstrate how the distinct Foursquare belief that Jesus is Savior, Baptizer with the Holy Spirit, Healer, and Coming King has practical impact on the daily life of the Foursquare disciple. Again, if these discipleship resources exist, they are grass-roots resources developed in local churches and used almost exclusively within those church settings.

This is not to say that the leadership of Foursquare Church leadership has been misguided or ineffective. Foursquare has become more organizationally healthy than it has been in a long while. The Reimagine work of Glenn Burris over the past eleven years has done a great deal to strengthen the movement. Burris' leadership was precisely the leadership that was needed at the time. His was the leadership that has positioned the Foursquare Church for a future of making distinctly Foursquare disciples in an increasingly fluid context.

Examining the work that has been developed during Glenn Burris' presidency highlights the strength of the current position of the Foursquare Church both organizationally and ministerially. The distinct identity and ethos of Foursquare has been updated for modern culture and language. Among the leaders who have had access to these works, what makes Foursquare a unique denomination is clearer than it has been in decades. However, this language has all been written for Foursquare leaders and has not yet made its way to the average Foursquare church member.

John Amstutz, Sam Rockwell, and Aaron Friesen represent the small collective of authors and leaders who have created scholarly works within the modern era that have done a great deal to bring needed clarity and make room for Foursquare leadership and discipleship. The keystones created by Rockwell have helped to relay the foundation of a movement that seems to be ready for a fresh wind of the move of the Holy Spirit in and through their disciple making. However, the audience for these works is largely the higher leadership of the Foursquare Church. Rockwell's Keystones were written specifically for denominational leadership, while even Amstutz's discipleship focuses on a picture that is significantly larger than the life of a disciple of Christ.

Here-in lies the great opportunity presented by these findings. The Foursquare Church is primed and ready to begin producing unified discipleship tools and resources for members of local Foursquare churches. Tools that will articulate the near-century old heartbeat of the Foursquare Gospel that is still powerfully relevant today. Tools that will equip Foursquare disciples with disciplines, practices, and theology that will impact their everyday lives. Tools that will frame discipleship around the person and ministry of Jesus Christ as the Savior, Baptizer with the Holy Spirit, Healer, and Coming King.

The Foursquare Church was founded on a commitment to inter-denominational and worldwide evangelism. The disciples developed in Foursquare Churches from the very beginning of the movement carried a distinct Gospel narrative and a unique relationship with the Trinity that made the Foursquare way of living desirable and powerful. The world has changed. People do not respond to preaching or disciple making efforts the same way they did generations ago.

However, the Gospel has not changed; and the Foursquare Gospel is still as powerful today as it was in the days when sister Aimee would preach at Angelus Temple. There is room and a hunger for fresh discipleship tools to be placed in the hands of local Foursquare pastors and members. With those tools, Foursquare can regain the momentum of making disciples who are aware of their distinct Foursquare heritage and identity, committed to the person and ministry of Jesus in and through their lives, and commissioned to go and make disciples who are likewise filled with the Holy Spirit and in love with Jesus Christ. It is the goal of this research project to develop such a tool for the Foursquare Church.



## APPENDIX C—MILESTONE 3 DESIGN WORKSHOP REPORT

### NPO STATEMENT

The Foursquare Church is positioned to benefit from accessible discipleship resources with a distinct Foursquare ethos.

### NPO SCOPE AND CONSTRAINTS

Non-negotiables: The artifact produced in response to this NPO must be accessible within local Foursquare churches. Resources developed must be usable for church members as well as local Foursquare pastors of varied leadership skill and experience.

Boundaries: The boundaries of this NPO are the Foursquare Church, a denomination of over 8 million adherents world-wide, though this NPO focuses primarily on those within the United States. The immediate boundaries, however, will be Life Church, a local Foursquare church in Lancaster, Ca.

Costs: Production cost for materials may range from web/app design to video production and distribution. These costs are currently unknown.

### NPO CONTEXT

The immediate context of this NPO will directly be Life Church, the local Church where I pastor. Life Church is a 92-year church in Lancaster, Ca which was home to just over 300 people before the COVID-19 pandemic and has since declined by nearly 50%. Rooted in a community of about 600,000 people, Life Church is well positioned to examine fresh approaches to discipleship within our denominational ethos.

There is certainly potential for a greater context for this NPO. Life Church is a part of the Foursquare denomination, a global movement that was birthed out of the Azusa Street revival

during the 1920s. Nearly 100 years old, the Foursquare Church has over 8.8 million members in over 90,000 churches across 146 nations. The denomination recently completed a nearly decade-long organizational restructuring process spear-headed by the recently retired president, Glenn Burris. This process, called *Reimagine*, positioned the movement to benefit from fresh discipleship approaches.

## ROOT CAUSES

At the national level, Foursquare's primary focus over the past decade has been on a revitalization of organizational structure. While this work has been largely successful, there has been little denomination-wide, top-down leadership regarding discipleship. Two notable exceptions to this claim have been the revisiting of the Foursquare tenets of faith in Jesus at denominational conventions as well as a project commissioned by previous Foursquare president, Glenn Burris, to examine and provide fresh language for Foursquare's ethos and distinctives. This work remained largely structural/cultural and had little impact on local church discipleship models.

At the local-church level, Foursquare pastors are given a fair amount of autonomy. This means that there is no required catechistic approach to discipleship making between local Foursquare churches. While this plays as a strength of the denomination in many cases, it has made it challenging to develop shared language and approaches for discipleship across the movement.

## THREE BIG IDEAS

1. Develop a self-contained, theologically consistent, accessible e-course for discipleship using Foursquare's existing digital training platform.
2. Produce a video series teaching through the Foursquare Gospel

### 3. Re-Launch L.E.A.D.

#### DEFINITION OF ‘DONE’

The end goal is to discover that discipleship is happening effectively within a Foursquare ethos as a result of engaging developed resources.

#### 3 NAPKIN PITCHES

##### Napkin Pitch 1

*Big Idea:* Develop a self-contained, theologically consistent, accessible e-course for discipleship using Foursquare’s existing digital training platform.

*Audience:* Leaders and members of local Foursquare churches, as well as anyone interested in Foursquare distinctives.

*NPO:* There is currently a lack of Foursquare-specific discipleship resources for local Foursquare churches.

*Benefit:* Users would benefit from greater connection to the larger Foursquare ethos. Leaders would benefit by gaining access to fresh discipleship resources for their context.

*Approach:* This self-paced course would include high-quality video teachings/interviews and discussion/coaching questions for individual and small group use, available via Foursquare’s online training platform (Canvas).

*Risks.* Lack of support (including financial) from district or national leadership would result in failure before launch. Success also requires buy-in and use at the local level.

*Assumptions/hypotheses to test:* Can a nationally (or at least regionally) sponsored e-course effectively support local churches in developing disciples within a distinctly Foursquare ethos?

*Benchmarks of success:*

1. Tracking enrollment/completion numbers.
2. Increase in awareness of Foursquare theology and distinctives among members of local Foursquare churches.

*Other Approaches:* While there are other effective discipleship approaches being engaged in local Foursquare churches, there is currently no other Foursquare specific discipleship course. This course would be set apart from other approaches because the content would be rooted in the four foundational tenets of the Foursquare Gospel.

### Napkin Pitch 2

*Big Idea:* Produce and distribute a video series teaching that moves through the Foursquare Gospel and encourage an annual “Foursquare Month” for unified, denomination-wide preaching/teaching of Foursquare tenets.

*Audience:* Leaders and members of local Foursquare churches, as well as anyone interested in Foursquare distinctives.

*NPO:* There is a lack of updated Foursquare-specific discipleship resources.

*Benefit:* Foursquare pastors and members will have access to material that to be used in discipleship, sermons, on church websites, & in providing clarity regarding Foursquare identity/theology/distinctives/tenants.

*Approach:* This digital video kit would include high-quality video content for use in local churches, small groups, individual use, and in partnership with an annual “Foursquare Month”.

*Risks.* Low quality content would hinder engagement. Resistance from pastors not wanting to give up control of their preaching schedules or themes.

*Assumptions/hypotheses to test:* Will video content covering Foursquare theology help local Foursquare churches make disciples within a Foursquare ethos?



*Benchmarks of success:*

1. Progress in disciple making within my own local Foursquare church.
2. Measurable results from a focus group of other local Foursquare Church to determine if context and culture affects the use of given resources.

*Other Approaches:* While there are other effective discipleship approaches being engaged in local Foursquare churches, there is currently no other Foursquare specific discipleship course. This course would be set apart from other approaches because the content would be rooted in the four foundational tenets of the Foursquare Gospel.

Napkin Pitch 3

*Big Idea:* Re-launch the Foursquare program called L.E.A.D. (Leadership Enrichment And Development) with fresh and legacy content across the entire denomination.

*Audience:* Foursquare credentialed ministers and anyone interested/engaged in local Foursquare leadership.

*NPO:* Lack of required continued education for Foursquare leaders that are specific to Foursquare distinctives.

*Benefit:* Leaders within local Foursquare churches would experience regular, recurring training around Foursquare distinctives that would be designed to then be passed on to members of local Foursquare churches.

*Approach:* Previously, L.E.A.D. compiled articles by Foursquare leaders into five books on the Foursquare tenets that were gifted these books to Foursquare pastors. Pastors were also required to attend annual seminars on related content. A L.E.A.D. re-launch would update the language and platform.

*Risks.* Lack of support from denominational leadership. Pushback against “required” continued education for credentialed ministers. Teaching content not made available to ministers unable to attend training sessions.

*Assumptions/hypotheses to test:* Will Foursquare leaders embrace a revitalized approach to a program that was previously short-lived?

*Benchmarks of success:*

1. Pastors teaching/sharing L.E.A.D. content in their local ministry contexts.
2. Measure completion rate of offered materials in denomination’s Annual Report.
3. Measure number of members who have been discipled using L.E.A.D. materials at the local level.

*Other Approaches:* L.E.A.D. offers an all-inclusive program for all Foursquare ministers. Rather than leaving the methods of discipleship within a Foursquare ethos to be determined at the local level, this approach would develop a unified approach across the entire movement for how disciples are developed. There are currently no other projects like this being attempted as this program was shut down in the 90s.

#### DESIGN WORKSHOP STAKEHOLDERS

1. Foursquare senior pastor
2. Foursquare senior pastor
3. Foursquare senior pastor
4. Foursquare youth pastor
5. Former leader of Foursquare polity for college students

## ONE-ON-ONE INTERVIEWS

1. Foursquare senior pastor
2. Foursquare District Supervisor
3. Retired Foursquare senior pastor, professor, and former head of L.E.A.D.

## ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Amstutz, John L. *Making and Multiplying Disciples: The Master's Plan of Discipleship*. Los Angeles, California: The International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, 2013.

John L. Amstutz, is a respected leader within the Foursquare Church and has written several books that have been well received and highly acclaimed within the movement. In this book, Amstutz engages the Great Commission as seen in the Gospel of Matthew and wrestles with how this Commission can still be fulfilled in the modern world. His intention is to develop a plan for making disciple that would, themselves, become equipped to make disciples, and so on.

This work fits within the scope of this research indirectly. While Amstutz does not address the foundational tenets of Foursquare as material for this book, his book is written from, and directed toward a Foursquare perspective. *Making and Multiplying Disciples* will provide an example for how previous Foursquare leaders have framed discipleship when the readers are typically within a distinctly Foursquare ethos.

Hull, Bill. *Jesus Christ, Disciplemaker: 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 2004.

Bill Hull is a pastor, author of more than 20 books, leads *The Bonhoeffer Project*; a training network for developing disciple making leaders, and is on the Doctor of Ministry faculty at Biola University. Hull's primary focus is on the subject of discipleship, and this work follows that theme. In this book, Hull brings the reader through four stages of

discipleship that He claims were modeled by Jesus with His own disciples. Those four stages are *Come and See, Come and Follow Me, Come and Be with Me, and Remain in Me*.

Hull's premise is that this four-stage rhythm is an effective disciple making model that is still effective today. This book also includes a *Leader's Study Guide* which is designed to empower entire local churches to engage in the disciple making process rather than only the pastors. This two-fold focus in this book may be beneficial in my research as an example of an effective framework for disciple making. While it is not a Foursquare tool (the audience being, broadly, Christian leaders interested in discipleship) the framework itself will be informative for this project.

Stewart, Dan R, ed. *Fresh Perspectives on the Ministry of Jesus*. Los Angeles, California: The International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, 2004.

Dan Stewart was the compiling editor for this work during the time that he served as the director of Foursquare's L.E.A.D. program. L.E.A.D. was a program commissioned by Foursquare president, John Holland to increase and maintain awareness of Foursquare theology regarding the person and ministry of Jesus Christ for Foursquare ministers.

Holland, and the founding L.E.A.D. director, Jim Hayford, commissioned a series of essays to be written on each of the four tenets of the Foursquare Gospel. Those essays were curated, and four books were published and distributed to Foursquare pastors. Each book contained the essays pertaining to one of the four tenets. A fifth book, *Fresh Perspectives on the Ministry of Jesus*, was then published that included a compilation of essays from all four books as well as several fresh voices.

*Fresh Perspectives* will serve as the resource most directly related to this NPO as it is written specifically about the topic of this research. The authors of the articles that make



up this book are all highly respected Foursquare leaders and scholars who write from and directly to a Foursquare ethos.

## APPENDIX A

### DESIGN WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

This workshop was held over Zoom on Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup> from 8am to 1:30pm. Of the five stakeholders who attended the workshop, all are credentialed Foursquare ministers, three are senior pastors, one is a youth pastor, and the fifth is an educator and associate pastor. This workshop was designed to produce the three Napkin Pitches described above. After reviewing the NPO I led the group through the Pain-Gain Map activity and a debrief. Next, we worked through two separate approaches of the Cover Story activity with the subject characters were Foursquare pastors the first time and members of a Foursquare church the second time. After a verbal debrief that resembled a version of Dot Voting we moved on to the Napkin Pitch worksheet, which produced the three Napkin Pitches that were described above.

On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being a perfect workshop, I would rate the success of this workshop at a 4. I felt that the stakeholders that attended were fully invested in Foursquare, highly committed to the subject matter, and generously interested in my success. Attitudes were positive the entire time, and the results were illuminating and very helpful. Having to host this workshop over Zoom slowed interaction down a great deal, so I do wonder how much more could have been discovered in the time we had if we had been in the same room. In retrospect, the Napkin Pitches that were produced each need some form of outside support in order to be started, let alone being considered ‘done’. I do not know if there is a way that I could have led the workshop better that would have resulted in more Napkin Pitches that are possible without

approval from denominational leadership. Other than that, I felt that this workshop went very well, and I am pleased with the results.

## DESIGN WORKSHOP DOCUMENTATION

### AGENDA

**8am:** Welcome and Introductions *15 min.*

- *Take notes!*
- *Limit distractions - this will be a fast-paced workshop!*
- *Quick introductions of participants*
- *\*Letter of Consent completed?*

**8:15am:** NPO Explanation *30 min.*

- *Reminder: take notes!*

**8:45am:** Pain-Gain Map Activity (twice) *30 min.*

**9:15am:** Debrief - *what have we learned so far? 10 min.*

**9:25am:** Humanity Break *10 min.*

**9:35am:** Cover Story - Goal: 2 presented solutions per team *1 hr. 10 min.* Intro

30 min. Teamwork  
20 minute presentations

**10:35am:** Humanity Break *5 min.*

**10:40am:** Closing Activity - Goal: multiple new Ideas *30 min.*

- *Only 2 Cover Story solutions? Dream up a third!*
- *If you have 3 - dig deeper with \$100 test!*
- *4? One has to be eliminated - dot voting!*

**11:10am:** Napkin Pitch - Goal: Pick three solutions to the NPO *40 min.*

**11:50am:** Debrief *10 min.*

**12pm:** Conclude

*Discovering and developing a discipleship process rooted in the Foursquare Gospel.*

**NOTES:**



DISCOVERING AND DEVELOPING A DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS ROOTED IN THE  
FOURSQUARE GOSPEL

**Excerpts from *Topic Expertise Essay***

**Introduction**

The story of the Foursquare Church<sup>1</sup> goes back to the early 1900s and is rooted in four foundational tenets about the person and work of Jesus Christ. Aimee Semple McPherson coined the phrase “The Foursquare Gospel” while preaching a sermon on the Messianic imagery of Ezekiel 1:4-12. The Foursquare belief in Jesus Christ as Savior, Baptizer with the Holy Spirit, Healer, and Coming King has been the baseline of the rich and distinct culture of the Foursquare Church for nearly a hundred years. This story and heritage have been handed down through multiple generations of faithful Foursquare ministers and congregants. That is, until recently.

The early history of Foursquare was marked by incredible signs and wonders, culturally sensitive and impactful global missions, and dynamic church growth. This was the fruit of a movement full of people who deeply shared a clear and passionate understanding of what it meant to be Foursquare. In the past two decades, however, there appears to be a steady decline in the development of disciples who carry the distinct Foursquare ethos that was so rich in the early days of the movement. While attendance seems to be following the national average, members of local Foursquare churches in America seem to know little about what it means to be Foursquare.

This problem has ironically been exacerbated by necessary work done by denominational

leadership over the past eleven years to “reimagine” the structure and identity of the Foursquare

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<sup>1</sup> <sup>1</sup> When the phrase “Foursquare Church” is used in this format it will refer to the denomination as a whole, where references to local Foursquare churches will be referred to as either “local Foursquare church(es)” or “local church(es)”.

Church. President Glenn Burris made it the primary focus of his presidential tenure to complete what he called a reimagine process, focusing on five stakes designed to, “propel [Foursquare] forward in our united commitment to fulfill the Great Commission as a movement.”<sup>2</sup>

“Reimagine” saw the commissioning a Presidential Task-Force and intellectual works that spoke directly to leadership about denominational structure. While this has been helpful and effective in clarifying denominational identity and strengthening the organizational structure, it has done little to equip local Foursquare pastors to reimagine ways to make disciples that carry the distinct Foursquare ethos.

If Foursquare leaders want to continue to write the powerful story of this movement, they are going to need to rediscover what it looks like to make Foursquare disciples of Christ in local churches. This discovery process would be well served to look to Foursquare’s theological roots and reimagine ways to develop disciples who hold Foursquare’s foundational tenets of faith regarding the person of Jesus Christ. This research project is aimed at developing an effective discipleship process for local Foursquare Churches using the foundational tenets of the Foursquare Gospel<sup>3</sup>. This research will require an understanding of the distinctly Foursquare pentecostal ethos, as well as processes of discipleship that will be effective for people attending Foursquare churches. A brief exegesis of key Biblical texts used by the Foursquare Church to support the four foundational tenets of the person and ministry of Jesus Christ and a synthesis of themes will complete this section.

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<sup>2</sup> Glenn Burris, “Five Points of Alignment,” Amazon S3, The Foursquare Church, 2014, [http://s3.amazonaws.com/foursquare-org/assets/Five\\_Stakes.pdf](http://s3.amazonaws.com/foursquare-org/assets/Five_Stakes.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> The phrase “Foursquare Gospel” will be used throughout this paper to refer to the foundational tenets of the Foursquare Church as defined by its founder, Aimee Semple McPherson. These tenets will be unpacked in the following section.

## **Synthesis of Themes, Values, and Commitments**

The Foursquare Church is deeply committed to the person of Jesus Christ as Savior, Baptizer with the Holy Spirit, Healer, and Soon Coming King. Differing from a classically Pentecostal denomination, the marker of being Foursquare is not evidenced by the demonstration of required gifts or expressions. Rather, the Foursquare ethos places a focus first on the personal relationship with Jesus; believing that it is Jesus who initiates the believer's relationship with the Holy Spirit; that Jesus is the source of the believer's authority and power, as well as their hope and peace.

Until recently, Foursquare heritage has been passed on for nearly a hundred years through a commitment to relational discipleship that has framed the way Foursquare has grown around the world. The mandate to teach future disciples the lessons and lifestyle of Jesus is not unique to Foursquare, but there is a distinct Foursquare ethos that should shape the way discipleship is done in local Foursquare churches. There is a rich, biblical foundation on which the Foursquare Church has built and replicated this dynamic legacy.

The following section of this paper will examine the key voices throughout the history of the Foursquare Church that built on this biblical foundation and helped to frame its distinct ethos. Examining these historical and emerging voices will clarify the image of what has made Foursquare a stand-out voice amidst the pentecostal choir. The goal of this research is to discover what legacy-discipleship-tools rooted in the Foursquare Gospel exist that can be redesigned for modern use in local Foursquare churches.

A current assumption and potential limitation to this research is that there may be a lack of key voices that have created those desired tools. If that lack is real, the opportunity for creating a new tool would present itself with great hope to revitalize local Foursquare church discipleship practices, and hopefully the entire denomination with a passion to train up disciples who commit their lives to all that it means to serve and worship a Jesus who is Savior, Baptizer with the Holy Spirit, Healer, and Soon Coming King.

### **Topic History**

The Foursquare Church has a relatively short history compared to other denominations; still less than a hundred years at the time of this writing. That timespan, coupled with the reality that much of the archival history of Foursquare is not fully written and lives in the stories of denominational stakeholders, presented a challenge to the research of this section. Turning to interviews with key voices within the denomination proved to resolve that issue and bring great clarity to this topic history.

### **Key Voices**

Aimee Semple McPherson

Guy P. Duffield & Nathaniel M. Van Cleave Jack Hayford

John Holland, Jim Hayford & Dan Stewart Glenn Burris

Sam Rockwell & Aaron Friesen Ashton Fish



## Synthesis & Conclusion

The significant hole in the work of the Foursquare Church is there is no unifying onboarding resource for members or would-be members of local Foursquare churches. While there has historically been a recurring increase of focus on the tenets among and directly to Foursquare ministers, there has been little success in developing a denomination-wide consensus on how to deliver this training to members.

....

Here-in lies the great opportunity presented by these findings. The Foursquare Church is primed and ready to begin producing unified discipleship tools and resources for members of local Foursquare churches. Tools that will articulate the near-century old heartbeat of the Foursquare Gospel that is still powerfully relevant today. Tools that will equip Foursquare disciples with disciplines, practices, and theology that will impact their everyday lives. Tools that will frame discipleship around the person and ministry of Jesus Christ as the Savior, Baptizer with the Holy Spirit, Healer, and Coming King. What remains to be seen is whether the movement's leadership will support and resource a revitalization of an approach like LEAD and Squad for adults.

The Foursquare Church was founded on a commitment to inter-denominational and worldwide evangelism. The disciples developed in Foursquare Churches from the very beginning of the movement carried a distinct Gospel narrative and a unique relationship with the Trinity that made the Foursquare way of living desirable and powerful. The world has changed. People do not respond to preaching or disciple making efforts the same way they did generations ago.

However, the Gospel has not changed; and the Foursquare Gospel is still as powerful today as it was in the days when sister Aimee would preach at Angelus Temple. There is room and a hunger for fresh discipleship tools to be placed in the hands of local Foursquare pastors and members. With those tools, Foursquare can regain the momentum of making disciples who are aware of their distinct Foursquare heritage and identity, committed to the person and ministry of Jesus in and through their lives, and commissioned to go and make disciples who are likewise filled with the Holy Spirit and in love with Jesus Christ. It is the goal of this research project to develop such a tool for the Foursquare Church.

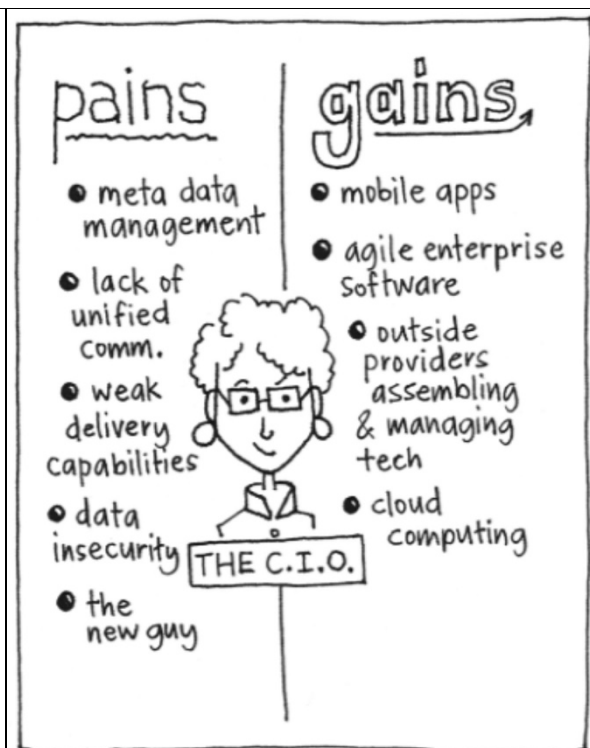
### *Pain-Gain Map*

#### What

**Goal:** Understand the motivations and decisions of key stakeholders or users impacted by the NPO

**People:** 3-10 people **Time:** 30 minutes **Notes:**

- Pains identify the fears, risks, frustrations, and the obstacles those impacted by the NPO need to overcome.
- Gains identify successes in addressing the NPO, and how they obtained it. This will also include their ambitions, passions, goals, wants, and needs.



#### Process

1. Pick a real person or a persona of someone impacted by the NPO. Create two columns: Pains and Gains. You may need to first create a profile (or persona) that describes key attributes of this 'composite' person. For the next step, you will need to place yourself in this persona's shoes.

2. Using that person as a lens, brainstorm the person's pain points and gains within each column.

For pains, consider questions such as:

- What does a bad day look like for those impacted by the NPO?
- What are they afraid of?
- What keeps them awake at night?
- What are they responsible for?
- What obstacles stand in their way?

● You might also ask about the following: "What are their...points of friction? Workarounds? Inefficiencies? Tensions? Contradictions? Predicaments? Stated/unstated rules? Assumptions?"

For gains, consider questions such as:

- What do they want and aspire to?
  - How do they measure success?
  - Given the subject at hand, how could they benefit?
  - What can we offer them?
3. Prioritize the points and use them when developing value propositions or communication strategies.

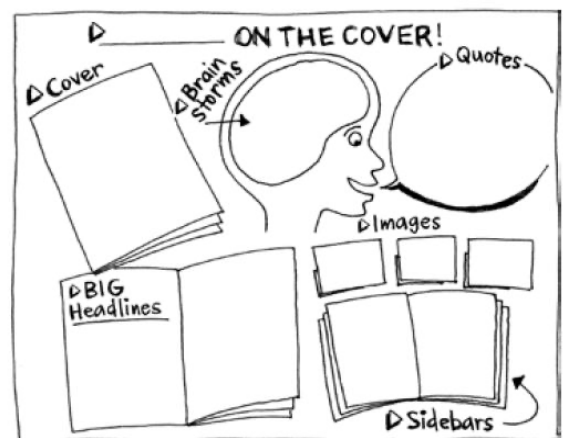
## Cover Story

### What

**Goal:** An exercise in visioning and imagination. This Activity not only encourages people to "think big," but also actually plants the seeds for a future that perhaps wasn't possible before engaging in the Activity.

**People:** Any **Time:** 60 minutes

**Notes:** Participants need to suspend all disbelief and envision a future state that is so stellar that it landed your NPO solution on the cover of a magazine. The stakeholders must pretend as though this future has already taken place and has been reported by the media.



### Process

1. Before the Workshop, [print out this template](#) or draw out large-scale templates like the one shown above. Your template does not need to look exactly like this one but be sure to keep the categories intact. Generate one template for every 4-6 participants.

2. Explain the objective to the stakeholders and define each category on the template:

“Cover” tells the BIG story of their success. “Headlines” convey the substance of the cover story. “Sidebars” reveal interesting facets of the cover story.

“Quotes” can be from anyone as long as they’re related to the story. “Brainstorm” is for documenting initial ideas for the cover story. “Images” are for supporting the content with illustrations.

3. Divide the stakeholders into groups of 4-6 and make sure there are markers and one template for each group. Have the group choose a spokesperson to present at the end of the Activity.
4. Ask stakeholders to imagine the best-case scenario for the NPO outcome and take that scenario one step further. Request that they spend 5 minutes quietly imagining possible stories individually before they work together to agree on one. Give the groups 30–45 minutes to generate this “story of the year” and represent it on their template.
5. Reconvene the breakout groups and ask for volunteers to present their visions first. Give each group 5–10 minutes to share.
6. Note any common vision themes and areas of agreement. Ask for observations, insights, and concerns about the future state.

\* Adapted from <https://gamestorming.com/cover-story/>

## \$100 Test

### What

**Goal:** Prioritize a list of ideas or factors. **People:** Small groups

**Time:** 30 minutes

\$100 TEST		
Item/Topic/Issue	\$	WHY?
Internet Access	\$21	to tell others & ask for help
alarm clock	\$7.50	the only one often available
Telephone	\$55	connect with EMS
SMS	\$8.50	help during emergencies
camera	\$4.25	documentation for insurance
Solitaire	.75¢	stress relief
voice recorder	\$3	capture disaster interviews



## Process

1. \$100: Break into small groups and give each group a collective “\$100” to spend on a list of features or items.
2. Allocate: The group decides together how to allocate value across the list of features.
3. Reason: Have the group also capture reasoning for each amount.
4. If several small groups did the activity, have each group present their ranking with reasons. This provides space to compare outcome, sharpen reasons, and collate into a single ranking either through Dot Voting or a second round of \$100 Test.

## Dot Voting

### What

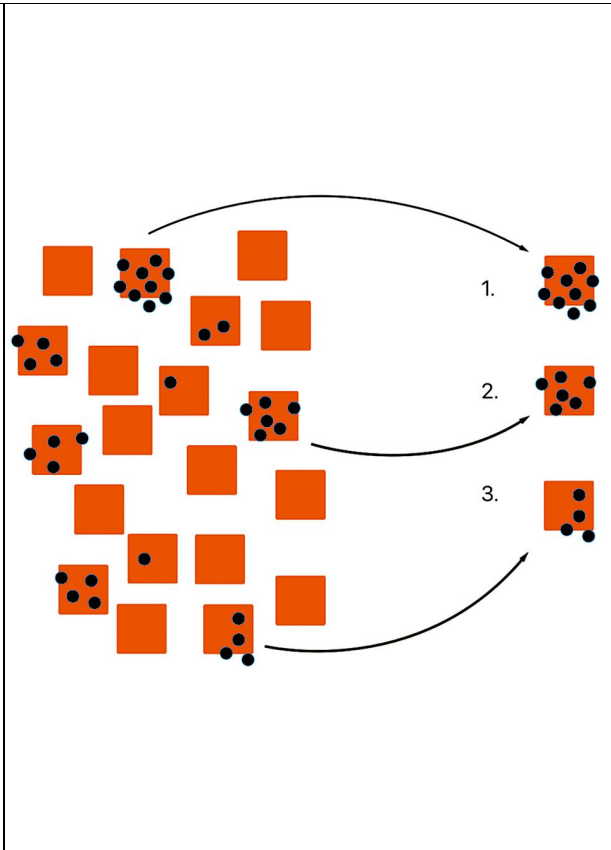
**Goal:** Prioritize and converge on an agreed upon solution.

**People:** 3 or more.

**Time:** Quick, a few minutes, depending on the number of topics.

### Notes:

- Different colors = different meanings (agree, disagree, critical, surprising, etc.).
- The number of votes per participant can vary. Be sure to use enough dots to force everyone to have to *prioritize*.
- A good rule of thumb to determine how many dots to give participants is: ‘number of votes’/3 +1. For instance, if you had 12 options, it would be  $12/3 + 1 = 5$  dots.



### Process

1. Give each participant 3-5 dot stickers.
2. Once participants have created a wall of sticky notes, Affinity Diagram, or a flip-chart list that captures the ideas in one place, ask the group to cast their votes by placing a dot next to the items they feel are the most important factors.
3. To reduce groupthink, ask everyone to select their votes in silence.
4. Participants cast their votes all at once.
5. Participants may vote *more than once* for a single item or vote on their ideas.

6. Once all the votes are cast, create a prioritized list based on the voting 'heat map.'
7. This prioritized list becomes the subject of discussion and decision making. In some cases, it may be useful to reflect on ideas that didn't receive votes to verify that they haven't been left behind without cause.

\* Adapted from <https://gamestorming.com/dot-voting/> \* Dot Voting vs. \$100 Test

- Dot voting is more flexible, 'quick and dirty.' It is oriented toward a decision.
- The \$100 Test requires participants to articulate *reasons* for their votes. It is oriented toward understanding the rationale for a decision.
- The facilitator could sequence the activities - Dot Voting then \$100 test.

## Napkin Pitch

*Approximate time: 40 minutes*

Having selected your three big ideas, you now need to draw up a *rough* draft of your Napkin Pitch for each idea. For this exercise, you will be drawing upon what you discovered in the earlier activities.

Download and complete this [Napkin Pitch Worksheet](#) for each proposed big idea.

Utilizing a guided conversation, address the key components listed below within the worksheet:

- **NPO:** What is the unmet need/problem/opportunity we are addressing?
- **Approach:** What is our approach to meeting that need, and how is it novel?
- **Benefit:** How does the user benefit? How do you benefit?
- **Others:** How are others addressing this NPO? What sets this approach apart?
- **Risks:** Why might it fail?
- **Assumptions/hypotheses to test:** What critical hypothesis or assumption does each prototype 'test'?

- **Benchmarks of success:** What information do you need to either confirm or disprove your hypothesis? Articulate the 2-3 benchmarks (or indicator, clue, criteria, test, metric, or milestones) that verify that the project is successfully addressing the NPO.

These Napkin Pitches will serve as the basis of your prototypes in the next semester. You will also continue to refine these through your one-on-one conversations in the weeks to follow.

## **Debrief**

*Approximate time: 10 minutes*

As you conclude your Design Workshop, explore knowledge gaps that require further research in the final debrief questions to ask your stakeholders before they leave. This input will help you identify materials you will consult to fill knowledge gaps, either in the Annotated Bibliography or in the one-on-one interviews.

- In light of what emerged today...
  - What should I be sure to examine?
  - What are the potential blind spots that I best explore?
  - What are the potential pitfalls that I best avoid?
  - What *must* I research before I begin prototyping?
- Ask if any of your stakeholders have questions.
- Invite further input by email.
- Thank your stakeholder participants for their help in your research.

## Cover Story 1 (Ladies)

E-Course <sup>(w/ live-in-person-option)</sup> → option of train the trainer

↳ Students can follow along OR become a trainer themselves

↳ Via certifications

↳ Clarity of graphic increases as students progress through course.

\* "Marketplace inundated... line was good w/ spirit-filled disciples"

\* Delivery method: CANVAS (which 40 churches already invests in)

\* Sustainable & Accessible

## Cover Story 2 (Men)

Headline: 100 Churches rally to see 100,000 salvations!

↳ Video series available to share among groups

↳ For small-groups w/ questions offered

\* Teaches common language & encourages partnership amongst 40 churches... By-product is evangelism



### Cover Story 3 (Ladies)

**APP** Including Social Media/Zoom-space/etc.

↳ Image of a life-preserver, pulling people in to relational safe-spaces.

↳ Helps give people a voice in the movement

AND connects people to the global 40 church

↳ Connects people to the global 40 "family" in an app that also teaches 40 ethos,

\* Persons in pews meeting people in the pulpit

\*(get Aimee quote)

\* Zoom spaces managed by certified trainers

↳ This idea is actually a follow up to idea #1.

### COVER STORY (BONUS IDEA 4)

#### • Re-Launch L.E.A.D. (Re-Market for modern 4D)

↳ Train-Ministers to train their people.

\* Focus is FOR "credentialed leaders"

↳ The end-goal is to teach leaders  
How TO teach their people.

\* District-led

\* Include practices to be done (not just info)

\* ~~Make~~ Make sure to make training practical for daily living as a 4D person.

### IDEA 5

#### "FOURSQUARE MONTH"

↳ Every Church takes 4 Sundays (a whole month)  
to share short videos w/ churches

\* Unifies conversation around 4D annually

### ONE-PAGE POST-WORKSHOP MESSAGE TO STAKEHOLDERS

Dear friends,

I am writing as a follow-up to the NPO Design Workshop you so generously participated in on November 16<sup>th</sup>. First, I want to thank you again for your time and for the wise insights you shared with me. I have spent time prayerfully reviewing the three Napkin Pitches you helped me to develop at the end of our time together. You may recall that the three pitches you suggested

were (generally) first, to launch an e-course rooted in the Foursquare Gospel; second to produce a video series in partnership with an annual *Foursquare Month*; and third, to re-launch Foursquare's L.E.A.D. program. Each of these ideas have spawned great hope for the future of my dissertation work.

As I continue to move forward in my research, I would like to ask now for permission to follow up with you should the need arise in the future. You have already been a great gift to me, and I imagine that your perspectives might be helpful again as I begin to develop prototypes of my final dissertation artifact. Please do not feel a need to reply with that permission now. I will reach out again as needed. I thank you in advance for the availability for future partnership that you have each already communicated, as well as your prayers as I continue this journey.

I pray that God blesses you as you have been a great blessing to me,

Tim Lee

## ONE-ON-ONE INTERVIEWS DOCUMENTATION

### Interview #1, conducted on November 24<sup>th</sup>

The subject, who is a Foursquare District Supervisor, gave some initial feedback regarding my NPO statement. His concern was that the wording was not clear. After some reflection, his encouragement has inspired an adjustment to the NPO statement as it currently reads at the beginning of this document. The interview subject spoke to the Napkin Pitches for the duration of our conversation.

*Concerns:* The interview subject felt strongly that the Napkin Pitches were all out of reach for my dissertation project due to the need for support from denominational leadership. He felt that this would limit my ability to achieve success in my project. He was especially convinced that Pitch 3, the re-launch of L.E.A.D. was not a viable idea and should be disregarded.

*Encouragements:* The subject suggested a fourth pitch that would essentially be Pitch 2 but would remove the suggested *Foursquare Month* and would limit the primary focus of the testing of this project strictly to Life Church. He recommended publishing the developed material on a website of my own in order to share the content with other pastors for beta testing as possible.

Interview #2, conducted on November 25<sup>th</sup>

The subject is a retired Foursquare pastor and professor who has had many years of experience engaged in discipleship in distinctively Foursquare contexts. He shared the same concerns as Interview Subject #1, that there will be too much permission needed to accomplish Pitches 1 and 3. He also felt strongly that there would be a great deal of pushback from Foursquare pastors if told what to preach during an annual *Foursquare Month*.

The subject recommended reading the book *Jesus Christ, Disciplemaker* by Bill Hull. He felt that the model in this book will be helpful in my work moving forward. The purpose behind this suggestion was primarily to encourage adapting an existing discipleship model for the Foursquare context rather than developing a new model.

Interview #3, conducted on December 1<sup>st</sup>

Subject #3 is a Foursquare senior pastor. He suggested changing the NPO statement from creating Foursquare disciples to disciples within a Foursquare ethos. He felt it is important to clarify that we are making disciples of Jesus, not of Foursquare. This was a sentiment made by all three interview subjects. One moment that stood out in our interview was the subject's interest in L.E.A.D. because he had never heard of it before. He said that the fact he had not heard of the program actually reinforces my NPO.

The subject liked Pitches 1 and 2, though he agreed that there may be resistance in telling people what to preach/teach in their local Foursquare churches. Primarily, he was enthusiastic



about the general idea of the NPO and felt that there is a great opportunity to develop discipleship tool that honor and celebrate the unique heritage and theology of the Foursquare Church. He agreed with the ideas in the pitches that included both leaders and church members in the audience. He felt this would strengthen the chance of engagement in local churches.

The subject gave a caution to consider how any resources developed may not automatically be effective in cultural settings outside of Southern California where I minister. He stressed that whatever discipleship resource is developed, it would be important to beta test it in different contexts around the country to see how cultural dynamics impact engagement. Overall the subject was very encouraging and offered to consider running a beta test of discipleship materials at his church for my research.

## APPENDIX D—MILESTONE 4 [DESIGN RESEARCH REPORT] / [PROTOTYPE ITERATION REPORT]

### INTRODUCTION

This Prototype Iteration Report is designed to relate the structure for and learnings from the Prototype tests that I conducted for DMIN851. I created two prototypes and held tests for each of them. Following the overview of each prototype is a description of the “Most Viable Prototype” that I have chosen to focus on for the completion of this project.

### PROTOTYPE #1 SUMMARY AND FINDINGS

#### **Prototype Description:**

Foursquare Nomad is a mobile-first website designed to guide and support individuals through a discipleship journey rooted in the foundational tenets of the Foursquare Gospel.

#### **Goldilocks quality strategy:**

Show participants a Google Slides web-published presentation that mimics app functionality starting at the “home screen”, moving through the menu and first session.

#### **Research question:**

Will Foursquare Nomad, a web-based, individually paced learning environment increase interest and engagement in discipleship within a Foursquare ethos?

#### **Assessment Benchmark(s):**

- Church members who use Foursquare Nomad have stories of ways the material has strengthened their walk with God.

- Church members who use Foursquare Nomad are able to articulate the Foursquare Gospel.
- Church members who use Foursquare Nomad have stories of ways they have begun to make disciples.
- Church members who use Foursquare Nomad become leaders for future small groups.

### **Prototype participant demographic description**

Male and female members of Life Church of Hispanic and Caucasian descent, ranging in age from 20s to 80s in age.

### **Summarize what you learned: What worked? What could be improved? What matters to the participants?**

What worked?

- The purpose of the site was easily understood by all participants.
- All participants found the subject matter to be interesting and important for Christian development.

What could be improved?

- Website design was well received as a prototype, but clearly needs to be improved.
- All participants liked the review function of the site but differed on how they would like the review the materials.
  - Three preferred the review section to be integrated right into the teaching portion.
  - The other two felt that keeping a review separate could be positive.
  - It would be helpful to discover which method is most helpful.

What matters to the participants?

- Ease of use for the website layout.
- Community connections to other users as well as to local church pastors
- 4 out of 5 participants said they would consider using this self-paced platform in a small group setting; one said they would prefer this content be tailored for small groups rather than individual learning.
- All participants felt it would be important to have video content specifically from their home church rather than unknown people from other churches.

**What was your important discovery?**

- I was surprised by the consistent push toward community/relational engagement.
- The desire for Nomad to be produced in multiple languages came up more than once.

## PROTOTYPE #2 SUMMARY AND FINDINGS

**Prototype Description:**

Foursquare Path is an interactive book designed to guide/support small groups through a discipleship journey rooted in the foundational tenets of the Foursquare Gospel.

**Goldilocks quality strategy:**

Present a printed version of the table of contents and the outline for the first chapter of Path materials to a group of 5 members of Life Church.

**Research question:**

Will a Foursquare Path book study in small groups increase interest and engagement in discipleship within a Foursquare ethos?

**Assessment Benchmark(s):**

- A strong community formed within Foursquare Path group.



- Church members who use Foursquare Path have stories of ways the material has strengthened their walk with God.
- Church members who use Foursquare Path have stories of ways they have begun to make disciples.
- Church members who use Foursquare Path are able to articulate the Foursquare Gospel.
- Church members who use Foursquare Path become leaders for future small groups.

### **Prototype participant demographic description**

Male and female members of Life Church of Hispanic and Caucasian descent, ranging in age from 20s to 80s in age.

### **Summarize what you learned:**

What worked?

- The design and layout of the book was well received by all participants.
- The purpose of the book was easily understood by all participants.
- Journey Groups with designated Guides was seen as being very helpful.

What could be improved?

- Include a pre-meeting before session 1:
  - *To introduce Path*
  - *To allow group members to get to know each other (which will help comfort with sharing later)*
  - *To review the material ahead of time*
- Clarity in presentation as to how a person discovers and joins Path.

What matters to the participants?

- Group based, not individual/self-paced.

- Book over digital.

### **What was your important discovery?**

- Participants were passionate about two things:
  - 1. Wanting this resource to be a physical book rather than digital.
  - 2. Wanting a group dynamic rather than individual.
- Creating an additional meeting at the front end to increase comfort level with group members and to review the roadmap.

### **MOST VIABLE PROTOTYPE**

The prototype I believe will be most viable for the focus of this project moving forward will be a hybrid of prototypes one and two. Test participants for both prototypes leaned more towards group settings for discipleship than individual and self-paced. They also strongly preferred printed, physical books as the primary resource rather than digital, web based only resources. However, there was great interest among prototype one participants in digital resources to support their discipleship journey. With that in mind, the MVP that I intend to produce will look more like prototype two but will potentially include digital supporting resources.

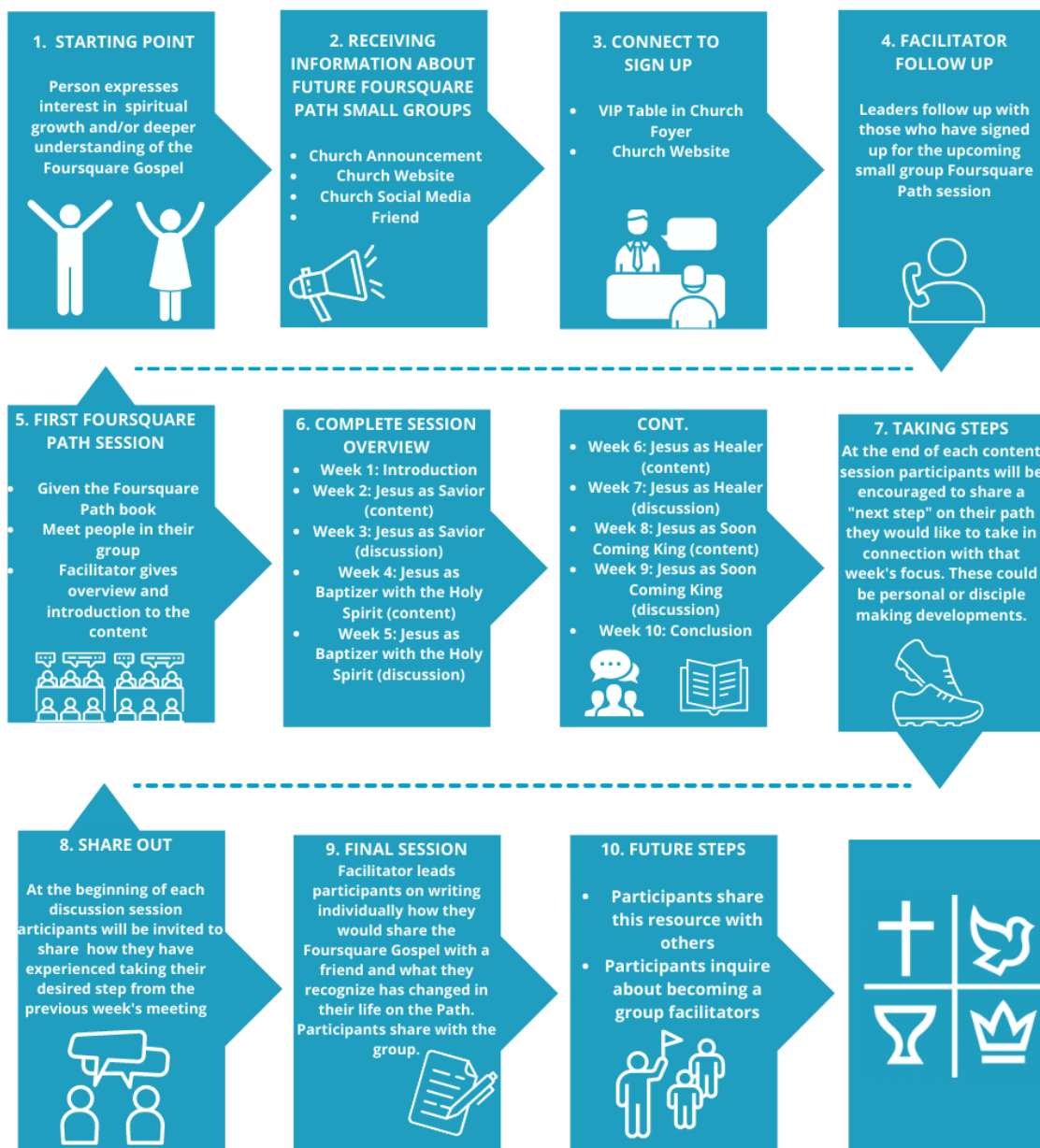
The primary focus of my prototype will be a physical discipleship, small group resource in the form of a workbook. Participants reacted strongly to the Path and Nomad imagery of being on a hike in both prototype iterations, so I will lean into that metaphor for the finished product. I intend to keep the titles of Journey Groups and Journey Guides as those were helpful for participants in identifying roles.

A few considerations for future discovery are related to accessibility and the number of gatherings. Several participants recommended launching this resource already in at least one other language. It will be interesting to see how this might be able to be accomplished during this final phase, or if it will need to be tabled and addressed later. There was also a strong recommendation to add one additional session/lesson to the front and back ends of this resource in both the physical and digital iterations. Adding an additional session to the beginning will allow users to familiarize themselves with the material and get to know the members of their Journey Group in advance. An additional session at the end was recommended to equip users to develop a personal testimony they can share with others as they continue their discipleship journey after they complete the group/resource.

APPENDICES  
STORYBOARDS



# FOURSQUARE PATH



# FOURSQUARE NOMAD



## RECRUITING SCREENER

### Foursquare Path:

Who I want to talk to	Exact criteria:	Screening questions:
People who attend Life Church	Has *regularly engaged online or on campus gatherings over last 3 months. <i>*At least twice a month</i>	In last 3 months, how many times have you engaged with a Life Church gathering either online or on campus?
Fluent English speakers	Can read and clearly engage conversation in English.	Do you experience any language barriers with conversation in English?
People interested in Foursquare theology	Expresses interest in topic	Are you interested in learning more about the Foursquare Gospel?
People desiring discipleship	Expresses interest in topic	Are you interested in growing in your faith?
Males & Females	2 males & 3 females or vice versa	Gender: M, F
People preferring group learning environments	Willing to engage in group-based learning environments	Would you prefer a group or individual learning environment?
Range of ages, from 15 to 60+	Quota: 2 aged 15-35; 3 35-60+	Age? ____

Who I want to exclude:	Exact criteria:	Screening questions:
Non-Christians	People who have not yet professed faith in Christ	Are you a Christian?
Children	People under 15 years old	Age? ____

### Foursquare Nomad:

Who I want to talk to	Exact criteria:	Screening questions:
People who attend Life Church	Has *regularly engaged online or on campus gatherings over last 3 months. <i>*At least twice a month</i>	In last 3 months, how many times have you engaged with a Life Church gathering either online or on campus?
Fluent English speakers	Can read proficiently in English.	Do you experience any language barriers reading in English?
Smartphone/tablet users	Has used smartphone/tablet within the last week.	What types of activities have you used your phone/tablet for in the last week?
People interested in Foursquare theology	Expresses interest in topic	Are you interested in learning more about the Foursquare Gospel?
People desiring discipleship	Expresses interest in topic	Are you interested in growing in your faith?
Males & Females	2 males & 3 females or vice versa	Gender: M, F
People preferring individual learning environments	Willing to engage in individual learning environments	Would you prefer a group or individual learning environment?
Range of ages, from 15 to 60+	Quota: 2 aged 15-35; 3 35-60+	Age? ____

Who I want to exclude:	Exact criteria:	Screening questions:
Non-Christians	People who have not yet professed faith in Christ	Are you a Christian?
Children	People under 15 years old	Age? ____



## INTERVIEW SCRIPT

### **Foursquare Path**

- Welcome and purpose of interview
- Introduction to Foursquare Path website.
  - Please feel free to move the through this site at your own pace and ask any questions you have along the way.
- After website review is complete:
  - What are your initial thoughts or questions about Foursquare Nomad?
  - What do you like/dislike?
  - What was helpful/confusing?
  - If Foursquare Path were ready to launch today, would you sign up and use it?

### **Foursquare Nomad:**

- Page 1 - Front cover
  - Thank you for coming
- Please fill out your consent forms
- Describe:
  - Dissertation project so far
  - Foursquare opportunity for new discipleship resources
- This prototype is 1 of 2 I have been assigned to create
  - I need your honest feedback
- This gathering is designed as a mock *Introductory Session* of a Foursquare Path Journey Group
- Foursquare Path is....

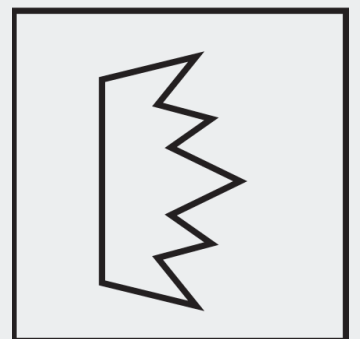
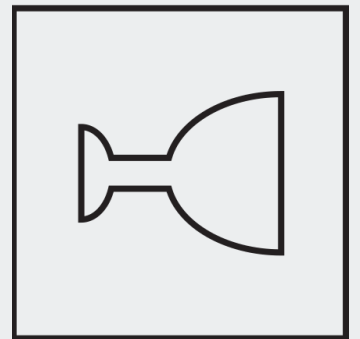
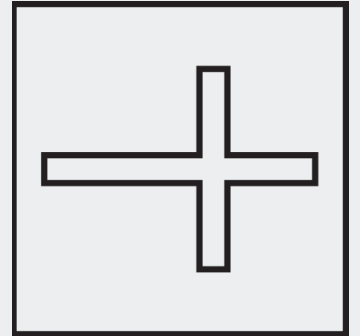
- Page 2 - Path Map
  - Foursquare Path takes each group on a journey through the Foursquare Gospel
  - This map is meant to be a guide for travelers to keep track of where they are on their journey
- Page 3 - Welcome & Overview
  - Read it
- Page 4 - Steps
  - Read it
- Page 5 - Guide and Group
  - Read it
- Page 6 - The Foursquare Gospel
  - Show video
- Page 7 - Session 1, Teaching
  - Review page
- Page 8 - Activation
  - Review page
- Page 9 - page break
  - To mark that there will be a week between Teaching/Activation & Discussion
- Page 10 - Discussion
  - Review page
- Page 11 - Reflection
  - Review page
- Page 12 - Back of book

- This will sit at the very end of the Foursquare Path book
  - The other 3 tenets will be in the final product
- Q&A
  - What are your initial thoughts or questions about Foursquare Nomad?
  - What do you like/dislike?
  - What was helpful/confusing?
  - If Foursquare Path were ready to launch today, would you sign up and use it?

## DOCUMENTATION OF PROTOTYPE



# FOURSQUARE PATH





# PATH MAP



## WELCOME + OVERVIEW

*Pre-Path Work*



## SESSION ONE: JESUS AS SAVIOR

- *Teaching*
- *Activation*
- *Discussion*
- *Reflection*

MEETING DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



## SESSION TWO: JESUS AS BAPTIZER

- *Teaching*
- *Activation*
- *Discussion*
- *Reflection*

MEETING DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



## SESSION THREE: JESUS AS HEALER

- *Teaching*
- *Activation*
- *Discussion*
- *Reflection*

MEETING DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



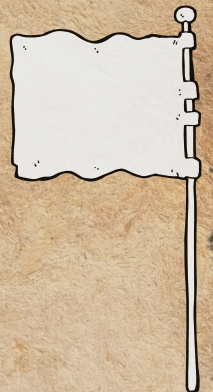
## SESSION FOUR: JESUS AS SOON COMING KING

- *Teaching*
- *Activation*
- *Discussion*
- *Reflection*

MEETING DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



**COMPLETION  
DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_





# WELCOME + OVERVIEW



Welcome to Foursquare Path!

What you hold in your hands is more than a book! It is meant to be a Road Map for you and your journey group as you travel the Foursquare Path.

Along with your Guide and your group, you are taking the first steps on a journey of discovery that is designed to help you grow in your understanding of and relationship with Jesus. In other words, Foursquare Path is all about discipleship!

We believe that the greatest source of discipleship and spiritual growth is Jesus Himself, which is why Path is not only designed to be a series of lessons about Jesus but a journey with Him.

What you and your Journey Group will learn here is built on the foundation of what we call The Foursquare Gospel.

Now, if you don't already know what that means, don't worry, your Path Guide will introduce that in just a moment, and our hope is that by the end of your journey, you won't just know it, you'll have discovered what it looks like for you to live it.

# STEPS

Each phase, or leg of this journey is designed to take place over the course of two weeks which will help you take four specific steps:

## **STEP ONE: TEACHING**

Gather with your Journey Group to learn about the specific characteristic of Jesus you will be learning about.

## **STEP THREE: DISCUSSION**

- The following week you will gather with your Journey Group again to discuss how you've been doing or feeling about your action steps.
- Keep in mind that this is not homework, and it is not a competition. Your Guide is there to help your entire group share their progress, and you get to cheer your friends on as they do the same for you!

## **STEP TWO: ACTIVATING**

- At the end of each teaching session, you will be encouraged to share a “next step” on your path that you would like to take in connection with that week’s focus.
- These could be a personal commitment, or something you plan to do with or for someone else.

## **STEP FOUR: REFLECTION**

- As you end these discussion sessions you will have a chance to update or recommit to your action steps for another week.
- Your Guide will also encourage you to take some personal time during the coming week to reflect on what you’ve learned.
- What new understanding do you have about God, yourself, or how you can partner with Him in the world?
- What questions do you still have?
- It will be best if you plan to write your reflections down in the Reflections pages provided for you at the end of each leg of your Foursquare Path Road Map.





# A NOTE ABOUT YOUR GUIDE AND GROUP

Their entire job is to help you finish this journey!

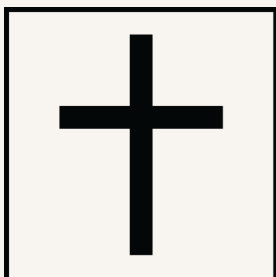
If at any point along the way you feel stuck, confused, or just need someone to talk to, reach out to your Guide! They will be available to listen and pray with you, help you find answers in Scripture, and if needed, connect you with any other kind of help you might need.

Lean into your relationships with your Guide and your Group! Share your contact information, follow each other on social media, cheer each other on as often as you can, and be there to pick each other up as often as it's needed (*it will be needed!*)

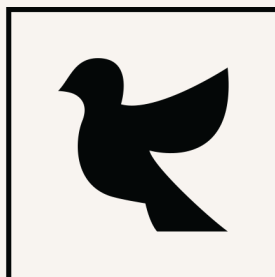
You are not on this journey alone!



The term “Foursquare” stands for the  
four-fold ministry of



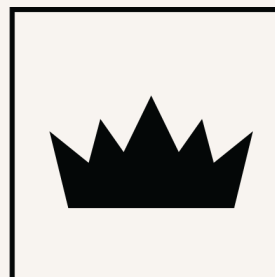
Jesus  
Christ as  
the Savior  
(Rom.  
10:9)



Baptizer  
with the  
Holy Spirit  
(Luke 3:16)



Healer  
(1 Pet.  
2:24)



Coming  
King  
(Acts 1:11)



# SESSION ONE

*Jesus as Savior*



“



*For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.*

*John 3:16 CSB*

During this session future travelers will move through interactive material designed to teach the foundational theology around this core belief that Jesus is our Savior.

You will learn:

- Why a savior is needed
- How the Old Testament helps us understand the saving work of Jesus
- Why death and bloodshed are required for salvation
- How and why Jesus' death offers us forgiveness for sins
- How to receive that forgiveness
- How believing that Jesus is your savior should impact your life

# SESSION ONE

*Jesus as Savior*

Before we wrap up this session, think about what next step you would like to take as a result of what you've learned here.



When everyone in your journey group is ready, spend some time sharing the steps you each plan to take with each other. This is a time for sharing your heart and encouraging your friends as they share their own.

Once everyone has shared, pray for one another and commit to keep praying until you meet again for a time of discussion.







# SESSION ONE

## *Jesus as Savior*

Taking time for dialogue with fellow travelers is a powerful part of any discipleship journey.

This discussion is designed to help you reflect on the action steps you gave yourself during the last session and learn from each other.



*Here are a few questions to help your discussion:*

- 1. How did it go with your action step(s)?*
- 2. What are you learning this week in relation to Jesus being your Savior?*
- 3. What questions do you have as you think about this topic?*
- 4. What are you asking God for?*



# SESSION ONE

*Jesus as Savior*

REFLECTION: What new understanding do you have about God, yourself, or how you can partner with Him in the world? What questions do you still have?





Congratulations! You have completed  
Foursquare Path!

Be sure to speak with your Journey Guide  
about next steps and a plan to celebrate!





## **Foursquare Nomad:**

### ONE-ON-ONE INTERVIEW NOTES

No notes were taken during the interviews. All interviews were video recorded.

### OBSERVATION NOTES

## **Prototype #1 (Foursquare Nomad) Notes - Participants referred to as “user” in these notes**

### Interview 1

- Initial understanding of site and purpose was positive
- Asked how a user would go about sharing the site with others
  - User wants to be able to share the entire site with others.
  - More so, the user wants to share their learnings along the way because, “Sharing is one of the key components of discipleship.”
- User asked if there would be more videos and content for learning on the Teaching page.
- User liked that the layout of the buttons changed between pages.
- While looking at Review and Reflection pages the user stressed strongly that saving progress will be very helpful.
  - We discussed creating a User Home Base page as landing after each login.
  - Home Base would store user progress for review & making jumping back in easy.
- User liked next steps unlocking in stages instead of being all open at the same time.
- After seeing everything user said,
  - “That would be a very effective ministry engagement and development tool.”

- Felt that this content would be good for new believers as it focuses on the Foursquare Gospel but could see how it could scale as content is added.
- Encouraged adding it to the church's website to allow people to find easily online.
- I asked, "What would help you become interested in using this for personal development at your level of spiritual maturity?"
  - User replied, "More opportunities to share content and personal reflections with others."
- User was very positive.
- Encouraged making sure the website layout is user friendly for those who are uncomfortable online.
- Encouraged to translate content into at least one other language before the public launch.

## Interview 2

- Initial understanding of site and purpose was positive.
  - User appreciated the clarity of interface and instructions about the overview
  - Encouraged everything to remain highly user friendly for "non-tech-savvy users"
- Encouraged Teaching videos to include background info about the speaker
  - Discussed the idea of allowing different churches to plug-and-play their own teaching footage from their own teaching team.
  - User encouraged making sure that users know who the people leading them are via a simple introduction.
- User wants Review to provide both multiple choice and short answer options with *hints* at how/where to find answers if help is needed.

- User prefers review to happen along the way, rather than all of it being at the end of an entire chapter/section.
- Emphasized wanting to save everything user writes along the way at the Home Base.
- User really liked the Reflection page to use as a personal journal
  - Felt they would use private mode most and share publicly about half as much.
- User suggested finding ways to add content along the way like “detours” that would give people connection points to deeper learning and/or back to the local church.
  - Emphasized steps along the way that would push users back to the local church for community.
- Liked videos at the start of each page to welcome users to that step/page.
- User did not like buttons moving locations between pages. Non-tech-savvy users may find that confusing.
- Question:
  - “If this existed now, would you use it alone or in a group”
  - User replied, “I think maybe both. I would love to use this kind of material in a Life Group.”

### Interview 3

- Initial understanding of site and purpose was positive.
- User is a self-professed “tech challenged” person
  - Felt a little overwhelmed by the idea of using a website.
  - Struggled navigating the site throughout the interview
- After reviewing the entire site, user said that tutorials for navigation would be helpful.

- User liked the option to get support along the way.
- User would be interested in engaging this resource and gave positive feedback about idea and content.
- User would engage site daily in person and would consider using it in a group setting.

#### Interview 4

- Initial understanding of site and purpose was positive.
- User gave a lot of technical feedback based on personal knowledge in web design
- User is a new Christian and was very interested in having additional discipleship resources.
  - User said, “I don’t have questions that I think of through the week, but something like this would help to guide me through things I probably need to be learning.”
- On seeing the Review section, user said, “Review is one of the greatest things you can have.”
  - Suggested Review section to be designed to make suggestions for further learning if a user “misses” a review question....to further learning in struggle areas.
- Recommended navigation buttons all remain in the same location between pages
- On seeing the Reflection page user said, “I’m an introvert, so I’m interested in seeing what other people are doing but not as comfortable sharing what I’m doing unless I had some life changing breakthrough or idea.”
  - Publicly sharing reflections was not of great interest; sharing personal reflections, not so much.
  - Recommended moderation on ‘public’ comments.



- Final thoughts:
  - “I think this is great, especially for newcomers. I’m constantly asking, ‘What else can I do other than Bible reading?’, and this would be perfect.”
  - User expressed that online learning is the best format...“Great for me, personally.”
- I asked, “If this existed today, would you sign up and use it?”
  - User replied, “I would. I wish it did exist right now. I would sign up tonight!”

## Interview 5

- Initial understanding of site and purpose was positive.
- User asked, “Who gets to see your progress and what you write?”
  - User was very interested in thinking through ways Nomad could be used in small groups
  - User was also interested in thinking through ways Nomad could be used by people at different churches, and by people in digital groups living in different cities.
- User suggested a scenario:
  - User signs up for Nomad and selects which church they are a part of....
  - Then user would select their small group leader who will help guide them.
  - Life Group leader would have access to the users’ progress in their group.
  - “Support requests” would also be sent to the group leader that a user would select upon signing up.

- User said that being a life group leader, it would be helpful to be able to see the progress of group members and know how to help them each move forward.
- User asked if Nomad will be available in other languages.
  - As a related thought, user said that non-English speakers will need to have the term ‘Nomad’ defined.
  - Discussed the idea of having local churches who use Nomad to record their own teaching content in their native language and context rather than being required to use our language and cultural explanations of discipleship terms.
- User suggested teaching section is not limited to sermons but would highlight theological teachings and resources.
  - “I get teaching on Sundays. I would want to come here to learn the Bible in depth.”
- User said that Reflections and notes taken could be crafted around building a disciple’s story.
  - “New believers want to share Jesus with people, but they don’t know the Bible. If this helped people write out their stories it would help them learn how to share their story and the Gospel.”
- On seeing the Reflection page, user said they would engage both the private and public spaces for reflections and encouraging others.
- User brought the languages issue up again at the end.
  - We discussed setting “national leaders” to be in charge of developing Nomad in multiple languages.

- User pointed out that an article used in English on a topic will not automatically be available in Spanish or Russian (for example) ....
- So having leaders in charge of finding/adding resources in their designated language will be helpful.
- User said that if Nomad existed today, they would sign up to use it, but only as a small group leader/member.

## **Prototype #2 (Foursquare Path) Notes**

There were six participants for this prototype test.

Participants referred to by a number according to their seating order. (i.e., #1, #2, etc.).

Notes begin after completing the presentation of the entire book. No questions were asked during the presentation.

- #6 (Seasoned Christian, new church member)
  - Felt this resource would be extremely helpful for new believers as well as a piece of a leadership development pipeline.
  - Appreciated the thoroughness of the content.
- #1 (Seasoned Christian, long term church member)
  - Felt Path was clear and not intimidating on expectations for both small group members and leaders.
  - “I don’t like surprises, but this made me feel like I would know what we’re doing from the very beginning.”

- #3 (Seasoned Christian, church member for about 2 years)
  - Wrote “intimidating” on the first page of the book but said that moving through the book helped to settle the concern about there being a lot of work.
  - Suggested their group members would be encouraged to do “pre-reading” of introductory materials to minimize intimidation factor
- #2 (New Christian, member for less than a year)
  - Took idea of pre-reading further and suggested a pre-meeting to allow group members to get to know each other and feel comfortable getting vulnerable in future sessions.
    - Suggested this could be done over a meal or at a coffee shop.
  - Added that this will be an excellent resource for people just coming to Christ or just joining the church.
    - Theologically and socially/relationally speaking.
  - “I’m so excited about this! I wish we could fast forward, and this was ready to do now.”
  - “I like how you tied it in to a journey, like a hike. Putting that picture to each step is really helpful.”

#4 Seasoned Christian, long term church member)

- “I like the foundational part of this.”
  - Reflected on their “return to the Lord” and felt that this would be a good resource for people coming in to or back to the Church.
  - This would be helpful to provide a foundation of theology, love, and community for people entering the Church



*\*Note that at this point there are already 4 different demographics mentioned.*

- *1. Brand new Christians*
- *2. People rededicating their life to Jesus*
- *3. Christians just joining the church*
- *4. Developing leaders*

#5 (Seasoned Christian, long term church member)

- “This is great, but I think there is missing link here. How do we actually get people to participate in something like this?”
- Reflected on our church’s previous membership course called “Life Track”
- “This is similar, but so much more in depth because it is rooted in learning together and then having discussions.”

*We took a few moments to unpack various ways a person might find out about and engage*

*Foursquare Path*

- *1. Church announcements*
- *2. Church leaders and friends within the church would recommend the group.*
- *3. Previous Path users sharing personal testimonies*
- *4. Celebrating Path ‘graduates’ in local church services and inviting more people to join groups.*

I asked, “If this resource were digital and self-paced rather than a printed book, would you feel more or less comfortable with it?”

- All participants replied “Less”
- #3 spoke for the group (they all agreed) that it must be a group and a physical book.

- #1 said, “Discipleship means group or community for me”
- #5 said it may be possible that young people might use a digital resource.
- #1 followed up by saying that a digital approach might be used by youth groups where there was a digital/social component.
- #2 said that there would be insights and sharing coming from group settings in person that you would never get on a digital resource or doing the process alone.

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