

10. Getting Alongside New Believers

Main message: Let's ensure we are each equipped to help new Christians grasp the foundations of life in Christ.

Recap from session 9: Last time we discussed nurturing others from 'new birth' to spiritual maturity. What's been your experience of discipling others?

If you have found any resources or activities to be fruitful in your experience, share those with the group.

Opening question: What do you think a new believer needs to grow in God rather than fall away?

Scripture: Read **1 Thessalonians 2:8**.

Question: What does this verse tell us about *how* we might go about making disciples?

- *It's not just about sharing information. Paul shared his life with those he was discipling. He was motivated by love and showed genuine care for the young Thessalonian believers. 'People' not 'projects'.*
-

Scripture: Read **Acts 8:34-39**.

Question: What is the first thing the eunuch does after hearing and believing the Good News about Jesus?

- *He gets baptised! After hearing from Philip, and believing the Good News about Jesus, there's nothing that stands in the way of him being baptised in obedience to Jesus' command.*
-

Scripture: Read **Acts 8:14-17** and **Acts 9:17-18** together.

Question: What two things do these passages both mention as key things for new believers to do?

- *Get baptised in water and be filled with the Holy Spirit.*

Question: Which comes first?

- *In Acts 8, baptism in water comes before being prayed for to receive the Spirit.*
- *In Acts 9, Ananias prays for Paul to be filled with the Holy Spirit before he is baptised in water.*

Question: When should new believers get baptised in water and seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit's power?

- *As soon as possible after believing in Jesus! These things are not 'advanced stages of growth', they are foundations.*

(If you have time!)

Scripture: Read **Matthew 28:18-20** ('The Great Commission') to remind you of all we've been looking at in this series.

Question: What is one practical way you can carry out Jesus' commands in your day-to-day life?

Prayer in small group: Pray for greater faith and confidence that you would be able to get alongside new believers and see them baptised and filled with the Holy Spirit's power.

Great Commission challenge: Consistently pray for two or three people in your life who don't yet know Jesus. Write their names down. Pray they would come to know him. Pray they would believe, be baptised, and be filled with the Holy Spirit. Pray they would grow into 'spiritual adults' who would disciples others.

Leader, you may want to remind the group of this activity over the coming weeks and months! You could even make space to do this in your small group meetings.