



ebenezer youth.

**Ebenezer Youth Family Discipleship Guide 2025-26**

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# Introduction to the Ebenezer Youth Family Discipleship Guide

The Ebenezer Youth Family Discipleship guide aims to help parents/ caregivers disciple the youth of our church.

As a church, we believe discipleship to Jesus is at the center of all we do. At Ebenezer Youth, we strive for any youth who joins our community to follow Jesus for life so they might become disciples who take on His character, ways, and mission.

We don't want Ebenezer Youth to just be a space to live out faith from grades 6-12, but rather to set up our youth to follow Him for the rest of their lives.

The reality, however, is that Ebenezer Youth's discipleship strategy is limited when not partnered with parents/ caregivers<sup>1</sup>. We believe this because it is proven that the primary influence of our youth is the parents/ caregivers<sup>2</sup>. Therefore, we see ourselves at Ebenezer Youth as coming alongside you and partnering with what you are doing in your parenting of our youth.

This guide's aim and function are to provide you with intentional discussion starters and content to engage our youth through all nine sermon series we will cover this coming year, plus two appendices. Statistics reveal that content without loving accountability and follow-up does not stick loving accountability and follow-up, it does not stick.<sup>3</sup> Therefore, this guide will allow you to engage with your youth as you will and please to ultimately point your youth closer to Jesus.

As always, if you have any questions regarding this please never hesitate to reach out to William Dmytrow (Jr/Sr Youth Pastor) at [will@ebenezerbaptist.ca](mailto:will@ebenezerbaptist.ca)

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<sup>1</sup> Christian Smith, "Parental Involvement in Youth Religious Activities: Links with Adolescents' Faith Development." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 43, no. 4 (2004): 349-367.

<sup>2</sup> Jay Belsky. "Parental Influences on Children's Behavioral and Emotional Development." *Developmental Psychology* 25, no. 6 (1989): 729-739.

<sup>3</sup> Marieke Thurlings, et al. "The Effects of Accountability and Learning Strategies on Achievement Outcomes." *Educational Research* 56, no. 2 (2014): 207-222.

# Series One – Jr & Sr

## First Things First – September 3–October 1 (4 part series)

### Introduction to this series

First Things First is a four-part series that introduces the essentials of following Jesus for life.

### What to Know about this series

The flow of this series runs in four parts: (1. Who am I and is there more to life than just this?, 2. Who is Jesus and what did He do?, 3. What is the Gospel?, 4. What is Discipleship?).

We want to introduce our year by showing our youth what it means to follow God in a foundational series that allows us to move towards discipleship in Jesus in introductory ways, with these four key ideas of what it means to follow Jesus for life, and allow us to draw deeper into discipleship in new and unique ways.

### The vision and aim of this series

This series aims to function similarly to the Alpha series, which introduces vital thematic concepts of the Christian faith and discipleship to Jesus. From our end as a youth ministry, we seek to dive deep into each of these topics and have our youth walk away thinking deeper about this thought:

*“What does it look like for me to follow Jesus for life?”*

And then having them understand:

*“To follow Jesus for life means everything, and discipleship to Him must be at the center.”*

### Family Discussion Starters

Here is a list of open-ended questions<sup>4</sup> to consider asking to start discussions while this series is happening:

1. When you think about who you are, what’s the first thing that comes to mind?

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<sup>4</sup> Cindy E Hmelo-Silver, et al. "The Effects of Open-Ended Questions on Communication and Learning." *Educational Psychology Review* 21, no. 1 (2009): 21-35.

2. If someone asked you who Jesus really is, what would you say?
3. How has the gospel changed the way our family lives day to day?
4. How is the “good news” of Jesus different from just “good advice”?
5. If you had to explain the gospel in one minute to a friend, what would you say?
6. What’s one thing that makes following Jesus exciting for you? What’s one thing that makes it hard?
7. What do you think Jesus means when He says, “Follow me”?
8. As a family, what is one step we could take to follow Jesus more closely in discipleship to Him this month?

### **Key Scripture passages to note and read together**

**Who am I** – Genesis 1-3; Galatians 3v26-28; 1 Peter 2v9-10

**Who is Jesus** – Matthew 4v17-20, Matthew 28v18-20; Luke 10v25-37; John 1v1-18, John 3v16-17, John 10-12, John 18-21

**What is The Gospel**– Matthew 4v17; Romans 10v9; 1 Corinthians 15v3-8

**The Call of Discipleship** – Matthew 28v18-20; Acts 1v8; Acts 2v42-47; 1 Timothy 2v2

### **Areas where you can dive deeper**

- **Who am I:** how/why/ was I created? The implications today of why our world has fallen. The three spiritual enemies are the world, the flesh, and the devil. How do these three enemies have us in the stronghold of sin today?
- **Who is Jesus?:** How do I learn more about the life of Jesus and what His life on this earth means for me today?
- **What is The Gospel:** How does Jesus functionally save us, and why should this change us today?
- **The Call of Discipleship:** What is the purpose of following Jesus for life? Why do we follow Him in the context of the church? Why do we call ourselves part of the church? Is the church essential to us today? Do I go to church, or am I the church? What’s the difference...?
  - **\*In all these areas of where to dive deeper, make sure to integrate discipleship to Jesus and our need to follow His ways, character, and mission and contextualize this to the particular topic\***

### **How to do Family Discipleship in this series**

Through these things, as a family, as you discuss, dive into Scripture, and go deeper, helping your youth have accountability and follow-up to thinking in these areas is necessary for growth and more profound faith engagement, which will then allow you to

help our youth move to engage with God in more practical ways. As always applicable to any series topic, here are our six foundational questions to ask your youth to move us from the content discussed and learned to spiritual transformation and practice<sup>5</sup>:

1. What is the Holy Spirit prompting in you through this topic?
2. What is your plan to obey the Holy Spirit's prompting?
3. Describe how your connection with God has been recently, and how it has grown through learning about this topic?
4. What have you learned about God through this topic?
5. Has the Holy Spirit convicted you of sin to confess & repent of?
6. How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to be a 'fisher of men'?

### **Final words of this series**

We are beyond excited for this series and ready to learn about the foundations of faith in First Things First and how to dive deeper into His rescue plan to save His people.

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<sup>5</sup> Victoria Shaw, and Daniel C. Shaw. "From Listening to Spiritual Transformation: The Role of Small Group Discussion in Bridging Sermon to Practice." *Journal of Psychology and Christianity* 37, no. 2 (2018): 126-138.

# Series Two – Jr & Sr

## The Holy Spirit – September 26–28 – (3 part series)

### Introduction to this series

The Holy Spirit is a series about us learning about the third member of our Triune God during our Jr/Sr Youth Retreat this year

### What to Know about this series

This series is about learning deeper about The Holy Spirit, a topic that is not always talked about or appropriately emphasized today.

This series will move in three paces: 1. Who is The Holy Spirit? 2. What does The Holy Spirit do? 3. How does The Holy Spirit work today?

### The vision and aim of this series

This series aims to function as a pathway to understanding The Holy Spirit at a big picture level.

As a youth ministry, we aim to be led by The Holy Spirit who Jesus has promised us is with us today (c.f. John 14v26). Talking about The Holy Spirit can be a confusing topic to navigate. Talking about this can often feel 'lofty' or 'abstract,' so we aim to think big picture, but then make knowing who The Holy Spirit is applicable and on the ground for our youth. The vision of this series is as follows:

*"To know that when we follow Jesus for life, The Holy Spirit is with us everywhere we go at all times in all places and is here to comfort, lead, correct, and bring us into truth."*

### Family Discussion Starters

Here is a list of open-ended questions to consider asking to start discussions while this series is happening:

1. When you hear the words "Holy Spirit," what comes to mind first?
2. Do you think of the Spirit more as someone personal, or as something abstract? Why?

3. Can you think of a time when you felt God was guiding or comforting you?
4. Do you think the Holy Spirit still does miracles and speaks to people today? Why or why not?
5. Where do you see evidence of the Spirit's work in our family, church, or world?
6. What's one way we could pay more attention to the Spirit's leading in our daily lives?

## Key Scripture passages to note and read together

- **The Holy Spirit's Presence today** – Romans 8v9–11; 1 Corinthians 3v16; Galatians 4v6; Ephesians 1v13–14
- **The Holy Spirit's Work in Transforming Lives** – Galatians 5v22–23; 2 Corinthians 3v17–18
- **The Gifts of the Spirit** – Romans 12v6–8; 1 Corinthians 12–14; 1 Peter 4v10–11

## Areas where you can dive deeper

- ☐ **Who is the Holy Spirit?** – Why do you think many people talk about God the Father and Jesus the Son, but less about the The Holy Spirit? Do you think of the Spirit as a “force” or as a Person you can actually know? Why?
- ☐ **What does the Holy Spirit do?** – Can you think of times when you've felt the Spirit guiding, convicting, or comforting you? Why is it important that the Spirit helps us live more like Jesus instead of just trying harder on our own?
- ☐ **How does the Holy Spirit work today?** – Where do you see evidence of the Spirit working in our church, community, or world? How might our family create rhythms of listening for the Spirit's voice together (through prayer, Scripture, or stillness)?
  - **\*In all these areas of where to dive deeper, make sure to integrate discipleship to Jesus and our need to follow His ways, character, and mission and contextualize this to the particular topic\***

## How to do Family Discipleship in this series

Through these things, as a family, as you discuss, dive into Scripture, and go deeper, helping your youth have accountability and follow-up to thinking in these areas is necessary for growth and more profound faith engagement, which will then allow you to help our youth move to engage with God in more practical ways. As always applicable to any series topic, here are our six foundational questions to ask your youth to move us from the content discussed and learned to spiritual transformation and practice:

1. What is the Holy Spirit prompting in you through this topic?

2. What is your plan to obey the Holy Spirit's prompting?
3. Describe how your connection with God has been recently, and how it has grown through learning about this topic?
4. What have you learned about God through this topic?
5. Has the Holy Spirit convicted you of sin to confess & repent of?
6. How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to be a 'fisher of men'?

### **Final words of this series**

We are beyond excited about this series and ready to learn more about The Holy Spirit and see Him work in the lives of our youth as we spend our retreat learning more about Him.

# Series Three- Jr & Sr

**Loveology (Jr) – October 14–November 12 (4 part series)**

**Loveology (Sr) – With Romantic Relationships integrated  
October 14–November 12 (4 part series)**

## Introduction to this series

Loveology is a four-part series introducing the idea of love expressed in the Bible. Further for our Sr youth to introduce a Jesus-centred and bible anchored way to think about Romantic Relationships.

## What to Know about this series

Love is the fundamental pillar Christianity stands on. The word love is mentioned 759 times in the English Bible.<sup>6</sup> And the most impactful kind of love is the love God has for His world (c.f. John 3v16). The cruciality of love in Scripture is undeniable, yet we live in a world where the word love is a hijacked word that takes on many meanings that are not necessarily helpful.

In Greek, which is the language that the New Testament was written in, we are told four kinds of love are used that we find in the English word love:

1. **Eros (ἔρως):** (the romantic love felt towards one's spouse.)
2. **Philia (φιλία):** (Refers to feelings one has towards close friends, "brotherly love.")
3. **Storge (στοργή):** (refers to the love we have for our parents, siblings, children and other members of our family.)
4. **Agape (ἀγάπη):** (A selfless kind of love that is higher than any love.)

When we can understand a proper theology of love (loveology) on what love means in biblical terms, we can grasp love at a key developmental stage, the core concept of love in the way of Jesus.

Further to Sr youth specifically seeing how Romantic Relationships are developed in Scripture.

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<sup>6</sup> Scripture references from the NLT (New Living Translation) unless otherwise stated.

## The vision and aim of this series

This series aims to function by giving a vision of what love really looks like, especially the love God has for us and the call for the love we are to have for one another.

The vision of this series is:

*“To learn what love really is on God’s terms in order that we may in fullness understand His love for us and our call for love towards others to help us follow Jesus for life.”*

## Family Discussion Starters

Here is a list of open-ended questions to consider asking to start discussions while this series is happening:

1. When you hear the word “love,” what do you think of first? Where do you think that idea comes from?
2. When you think of God’s love for you, what image or story from the Bible comes to mind?
3. What do you think makes God’s love (agape) different from the way the world usually talks about love?
4. Why do you think Jesus said the greatest commandments are to love God and love others (Matthew 22v37–39)?
5. What would it look like for our family to love God more intentionally this week? What would it look like to love others more intentionally?
6. What does love in romantic relationships mean to the world vs. what God has to say on it?

## Key Scripture passages to note and read together

- **God’s love** – John 3v16–17; Romans 5v8; 1 John 4v7–12;
- **Our call to love others** – Matthew 22v27–39; 1 Corinthians 13; 1 Peter 4v8
- **Don’t rush certain kinds of love (romantic)**: Song of Songs 2v7; Song of Songs 3v5; Song of Songs 8v4
- **Marriage** – Matthew 19v3–10; Ephesians 5
- **Singleness** – Matthew 19v11–12; 1 Corinthians 7
- **Eros**: Song of Songs 8v6–7 – (The strength and commitment of marital love.)
- **Philia**: John 15v13–15 – (Greater love has no one than to lay down one’s life for friends.)

- **Storge:** Romans 12:10 (Be devoted to one another in love; honour one another above yourselves.)
- **Agape:** 1 Corinthians 13:1–13 – (The “love chapter,” showing the selfless nature of agape.)

## Areas where you can dive deeper

- **Love and Forgiveness** – Why do you think love and forgiveness go hand in hand? Is there someone in your life you struggle to forgive?
- **Love and Boundaries** – Is it possible to love someone but also set boundaries? How do boundaries actually help love grow stronger? How do you think Jesus showed both love *and* truth in his relationships?
- **Love and Mission** – Why does Jesus connect loving God with loving your neighbour (Matthew 22:37–39)? How could our family practically love our neighbours this week?
- **The Meaning of Love Today** – Do you think the way our culture defines love is helpful or harmful? Where do you see “love” used in ways that don’t line up with God’s vision of love?
- **Romantic Love (Eros)** – Why do you think God designed romantic love for marriage? What do you think are the dangers of “awakening love too early” (Song of Songs 2:7)? How could you prepare now to love a future spouse in a healthy way?
- **Friendship (Philia)** – What makes a good friend according to the Bible? How does loving your friends point people to Jesus?
- **Family Love (Storge)** – What do you think God wants family love to look like? How can we show more of this love in our home?
- **Selfless Love (Agape)** – What is the difference between loving when it’s easy vs loving when it costs you something? Where have you seen agape love modelled in your life? How do you think Jesus’ selfless love shapes how we live each day?
  - o **\*In all these areas of where to dive deeper, make sure to integrate discipleship to Jesus and our need to follow His ways, character, and mission and contextualize this to the particular topic\***

## How to do Family Discipleship in this series

Through these things, as a family as you discuss, dive into Scripture, and go deeper, helping your youth have accountability and follow-up to thinking in these areas is

necessary for growth and more profound faith engagement, which will then allow you to help our youth move to engage with God in more practical ways. As always applicable to any series topic, here are our six foundational questions to ask your youth to move us from the content discussed and learned to spiritual transformation and practice.

1. What is the Holy Spirit prompting in you through this topic?
2. What is your plan to obey the Holy Spirit's prompting?
3. Describe how your connection with God has been recently, and how it has grown through learning about this topic?
4. What have you learned about God through this topic?
5. Has the Holy Spirit convicted you of sin to confess & repent of?
6. How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to be a 'fisher of men'?

### **Final words of this series**

We are beyond excited for this series and ready to dive deep into a theology of love with our Jr youth and further develop this practically with our Sr youth.

# Series Four – Jr only

## The Book of Joel – November 25–December 9 (3 part series)

### Introduction to this series

The Book of Joel is a prophetic book written during a time of crisis in Israel's history. The prophet Joel calls God's people to repent, to turn back to Him, and to trust in His promises for renewal. Joel also points forward to the pouring out of the Holy Spirit and God's ultimate plan to restore all things.

### What to Know about this series

This series will work through the three chapters of Joel, focusing on the themes of repentance, God's judgment, and the promise of the Spirit.

### The vision and aim of this series

We aim to address this critical book in Scripture and study it carefully. We seek to stay faithful to the message of the book of Joel and look at how it points to Jesus in ways we may not realize.

The vision of this series is as follows:

*"To dive deep into the Book of Joel and allow this book in Scripture to help change us to point to Jesus so we can follow Him for life."*

### Family Discussion Starters

Here is a list of open-ended questions to consider asking to start discussions while this series is happening:

1. What is your favourite book in the Bible?
2. Do you think it is important to be working through books in the Bible at a young age? If so, why?
3. What could you do to get the most out of the series you are doing at youth on Joel?
4. What do you think it means to repent? Why is repentance important?
5. How do you think God uses hard times to bring us closer to Him?

6. What do you think it means that God promises to pour out His Spirit on all people?

## **Key Scripture passages to note and read together**

Ideally, all of Joel 😊!

However, here are some extremely key passages we get from this book: Joel 1v13–14; Joel 2v12–13; Joel 2v28–32; Joel 3v16–17

## **Areas where you can dive deeper**

In this series, the best way to dive deeper is to methodically work through the verses chapter by chapter and allow this study to bring these areas to life.

In Joel, you will see the theme of repentance. It is essential to pose and ask what that looks like in practice. It is also important to know how we can find hope in God's promises when life feels uncertain.

It will be key to walk through the short chapters of Joel together at home, using the themes of repentance and renewal as conversation points. Encourage your youth to journal or pray through areas where God may be calling them back to Him.

## **How to do Family Discipleship in this series**

Through these things, as a family, as you discuss, dive into Scripture, and go deeper, helping your youth have accountability and follow-up to thinking in these areas is necessary for growth and more profound faith engagement, which will then allow you to help our youth move to engage with God in more practical ways. As always applicable to any series topic, here are our six foundational questions to ask your youth to move us from the content discussed and learned to spiritual transformation and practice:

1. What is the Holy Spirit prompting in you through this topic?
2. What is your plan to obey the Holy Spirit's prompting?
3. Describe how your connection with God has been recently, and how it has grown through learning about this topic?
4. What have you learned about God through this topic?
5. Has the Holy Spirit convicted you of sin to confess & repent of?
6. How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to be a 'fisher of men'?

## **Final words of this series**

We are beyond excited about this series and ready to dive deep into the Book of Joel and work through this book in Scripture faithfully.

# Series Five – Sr only

## The Book of Malachi – November 26–December 10 (3 part series)

### Introduction to this series

The Book of Malachi is a prophetic book. It addresses Israel, who had returned from exile but had grown careless in their worship and devotion. Malachi calls God's people back to sincere worship and faithful living as they wait for the coming Messiah.

### What to Know about this series

This series will highlight Malachi's themes of true worship, covenant faithfulness, and the hope of the Messiah who is to come.

### The vision and aim of this series

We aim to address this critical book in Scripture and study it carefully. We seek to stay faithful to the message of the book of Malachi and look at how it points to Jesus in ways we may not realize.

The vision of this series is as follows:

*"To dive deep into the Book of Malachi and allow this book in Scripture to help change us to point to Jesus so we can follow Him for life."*

### Family Discussion Starters

Here is a list of open-ended questions to consider asking to start discussions while this series is happening:

1. What is your favourite book in the Bible?
2. Do you think it is important to be working through books in the Bible at a young age? If so, why?
3. What could you do to get the most out of the series you are doing at youth on Malachi?
4. Why do you think God cares about the way we worship Him?
5. How do you think people can fall into the trap of "going through the motions" with God?

6. What does it mean to live faithfully while waiting for Jesus' return?

### **Key Scripture passages to note and read together**

Ideally, all of Malachi ☺!

However, here are some extremely key passages we get from this book: Malachi 1v6–11, Malachi 2v13–16, Malachi 3v6–12, Malachi 4v5–6

### **Areas where you can dive deeper**

In this series, the best way to dive deeper is to methodically work through the verses chapter by chapter and allow this study to bring these areas to life.

In Malachi, you will see the theme of why God calls us to give Him our best in worship, not our leftovers. It is essential to pose and ask what that looks like in practice. It is also important to explore what covenant faithfulness means in family, church, and community.

It will be key to walk through the short chapters of Malachi together at home, using the themes of worship and faithfulness as conversation points. Encourage your youth to journal or pray through areas where God may be calling them back to Him.

### **How to do Family Discipleship in this series**

Through these things, as a family, as you discuss, dive into Scripture, and go deeper, helping your youth have accountability and follow-up to thinking in these areas is necessary for growth and more profound faith engagement, which will then allow you to help our youth move to engage with God in more practical ways. As always applicable to any series topic, here are our six foundational questions to ask your youth to move us from the content discussed and learned to spiritual transformation and practice:

1. What is the Holy Spirit prompting in you through this topic?
2. What is your plan to obey the Holy Spirit's prompting?
3. Describe how your connection with God has been recently, and how it has grown through learning about this topic?
4. What have you learned about God through this topic?
5. Has the Holy Spirit convicted you of sin to confess & repent of?
6. How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to be a 'fisher of men'?

### **Final words of this series**

We are beyond excited about this series and ready to dive deep into the Book of Malachi and work through this book in Scripture faithfully.

# Series Six – Jr only

## The Letter to the Galatians – February 10–March 31 (5 part series)

### Introduction to this series

The Letter to the Galatians is a letter written by Paul to a church that was struggling with whether following Jesus meant keeping the Old Testament law in the same way they followed it before Jesus. Paul makes it clear that salvation is by grace through faith, and that freedom in Christ means living by the Spirit and not the law.

### What to Know about this series

This series will highlight the themes of grace, freedom, and walking by the Spirit because of what Jesus has done and how He continues to work our lives.

### The vision and aim of this series

We aim to address this critical book in Scripture and study it carefully. We seek to stay faithful to the message of the letter to the Galatians and look at how it points to Jesus in ways we may not realize.

The vision of this series is as follows:

*“To dive deep into the letter to the Galatians and allow this book in Scripture to help change us to point to Jesus so we can follow Him for life.”*

### Family Discussion Starters

Here is a list of open-ended questions to consider asking to start discussions while this series is happening:

1. What is your favourite book in the Bible?
2. Do you think it is important to be working through books in the Bible at a young age? If so, why?
3. What could you do to get the most out of the series you are doing at youth on Joel?
4. What do you think it means to be saved by grace instead of by works?

5. Why do you think Paul in Galatians warns against going back to old rules and rituals?
6. What does it look like for the Spirit to produce fruit in our lives?

### **Key Scripture passages to note and read together**

Ideally, all of Galatians 😊! However, here are some extremely key passages we get from this book: Galatians 2v20–21, Galatians 3v26–29, Galatians 5v1, Galatians 5v22–25

### **Areas where you can dive deeper**

In this series, the best way to dive deeper is to methodically work through the verses chapter by chapter and allow this study to bring these areas to life. In Galatians, you will see the theme of freedom in Christ. It is essential to pose and ask what that looks like in practice. It is important for our youth to figure out what they are even free from when they belong to Jesus.

It will be key to walk through the short chapters of Galatians together at home, using the themes of freedom and living by the Spirit as conversation points. Encourage your youth to journal or pray through areas where God may be calling them back to Him.

### **How to do Family Discipleship in this series**

Through these things, as a family, as you discuss, dive into Scripture, and go deeper, helping your youth have accountability and follow-up to thinking in these areas is necessary for growth and more profound faith engagement, which will then allow you to help our youth move to engage with God in more practical ways. As always applicable to any series topic, here are our six foundational questions to ask your youth to move us from the content discussed and learned to spiritual transformation and practice:

1. What is the Holy Spirit prompting in you through this topic?
2. What is your plan to obey the Holy Spirit's prompting?
3. Describe how your connection with God has been recently, and how it has grown through learning about this topic?
4. What have you learned about God through this topic?
5. Has the Holy Spirit convicted you of sin to confess & repent of?
6. How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to be a 'fisher of men'?

### **Final words of this series**

We are beyond excited about this series and ready to dive deep into the letter to the Galatians and work through this book in Scripture faithfully.

# **Series Seven – Sr only**

## **The First Letter to the Corinthians (4 part series) – February 10–March 25**

### **Introduction to this series**

The First Letter to the Corinthians is a letter written by Paul to a young church that was struggling with division, immorality, and wrestling with questions about worship and daily life. Paul writes to correct, to encourage, and to call them back to unity in Christ.

### **What to Know about this series**

This series will highlight the themes of unity, holiness, spiritual gifts, and a call back to following Jesus for life faithfully.

### **The vision and aim of this series**

We aim to address this critical book in Scripture and study it carefully. We seek to stay faithful to the message of the letter to the Corinthians and look at how it points to Jesus in ways we may not realize.

The vision of this series is as follows:

*“To dive deep into the first letter to the Corinthians and allow this book in Scripture to help change us to point to Jesus so we can follow Him for life.”*

### **Family Discussion Starters**

Here is a list of open-ended questions to consider asking to start discussions while this series is happening:

1. What is your favourite book in the Bible?
2. Do you think it is important to be working through books in the Bible at a young age? If so, why?
3. What could you do to get the most out of the series you are doing at youth on 1 Corinthians?
4. Why do you think Paul cared so much about unity in the church?
5. How do you think following Jesus for life should change the way we live in a world full of temptation?

6. What do you think spiritual gifts are for, and how should they be used?

### **Key Scripture passages to note and read together**

Ideally, all of 1 Corinthians ☺! However, here are some extremely key passages we get from this book: 1 Corinthians 1v10; 1 Corinthians 6v19–20; 1 Corinthians 12v4–7; 1 Corinthians 13v1–13; 1 Corinthians 15v3–4

### **Areas where you can dive deeper**

In this series, the best way to dive deeper is to methodically work through the verses chapter by chapter and allow this study to bring these areas to life.

In Galatians, you will see the theme of unity in Christ and living holy lives after God.. It is essential to pose and ask what that looks like in practice. It is crucial for our youth to figure out what unity and holiness looks like in following Jesus for life.

It will be key to walk through the short chapters of 1 Corinthians together at home, using the themes of freedom and living by the Spirit as conversation points. Encourage your youth to journal or pray through areas where God may be calling them back to Him.

### **How to do Family Discipleship in this series**

Through these things, as a family, as you discuss, dive into Scripture, and go deeper, helping your youth have accountability and follow-up to thinking in these areas is necessary for growth and more profound faith engagement, which will then allow you to help our youth move to engage with God in more practical ways. As always applicable to any series topic, here are our six foundational questions to ask your youth to move us from the content discussed and learned to spiritual transformation and practice:

1. What is the Holy Spirit prompting in you through this topic?
2. What is your plan to obey the Holy Spirit's prompting?
3. Describe how your connection with God has been recently, and how it has grown through learning about this topic?
4. What have you learned about God through this topic?
5. Has the Holy Spirit convicted you of sin to confess & repent of?
6. How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to be a 'fisher of men'?

### **Final words of this series**

We are beyond excited about this series and ready to dive deep into the first letter to the Corinthians and work through this book in Scripture faithfully.

# Series Eight – Sr only

## Future Church – March 26–April 16 2025

### Introduction to this series

Future Church is a three-part series introducing the importance of the church today, with a focus on sharing our faith as an outward application of the series.

### What to Know about this series

66% of youth who grow up in the church walk away from the church once they leave high school.<sup>7</sup>

This makes us beg the question, is the church even relevant or important today?

We want to introduce a series talking about how crucial the church is that allows us to move towards discipleship in Jesus in the key things the church really stands for and by according to Scripture.

### The vision and aim of this series

This series aims to function by giving a vision for the church where we would gain a high view of the church and catch a vision that, ultimately, the church is not a man-made plan but rather God's plan Himself to reach the world.

The vision of this series is:

*“The church is necessary to us in our faith yesterday, today, and tomorrow, and in fact, we are the church itself.*

### Family Discussion Starters

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<sup>7</sup> Evangelical Fellowship of Canada. *Renegotiating Faith: The Delay in Young Adult Identity Formation and What It Means for the Church in Canada*. Accessed July 22, 2024. <https://www.evangelicalfellowship.ca/Resources/Research-Studies/Renegotiating-Faith>.

1. How do you honestly feel about the church? Is the church really necessary?
2. Do you know what God says about the church? What do you think He would say?
3. Jesus described the church as a hospital for broken people. What do you think that means? Have you seen this to be accurate or false?
4. What do you think you could do to make the church a better place?

### **Key Scripture passages to note and read together**

**The church** – Matthew 16v18; Acts 2v42–47; Colossians 1v18; Ephesians 1v22–23, Ephesians 4v11–13; 1 Corinthians 12–14; Hebrews 10v24–25; 1 Peter 2v9–10; 3v15–16

### **Areas where you can dive deeper**

- ☐ – **Hurt in the church:** Have you heard of people getting hurt in the church? Do you think this discredits the church?
  - ☐ – **Baptism:** Why do you see people get baptized in the church? What do you think baptism means? Have you ever considered getting baptized? Why or why not?
  - ☐ – **Communion:** What do you think is the meaning of communion? What does doing communion do?
  - ☐ – **Jesus:** How does Jesus functionally save us, and why should this change us today? (Theology of Christology)
  - ☐ – **Serving in the church:** Do you think it is a good idea to serve the church? What are some examples of people you have seen serve the church well? What would it look like for you to serve the church?
  - ☐ – **Giving to the church:** Have you ever considered giving to the church? Why would it be important to give to the church? What could it like for you to give?
  - ☐ **Sharing your faith outwardly:** What does it mean to value sharing our faith outside of the church?
- **\*In all these areas of where to dive deeper, make sure to integrate discipleship to Jesus and our need to follow His ways, character, and mission and contextualize this to the particular topic\***

### **How to do Family Discipleship in this series**

Through these things, as a family as you discuss, dive into Scripture, and go deeper, helping your youth have accountability and follow-up to thinking in these areas is

necessary for growth and more profound faith engagement, which will then allow you to help our youth move to engage with God in more practical ways. As always applicable to any series topic, here are our six foundational questions to ask your youth to move us from the content discussed and learned to spiritual transformation and practice.

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5. Has the Holy Spirit convicted you of sin to confess & repent of?
6. How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to be a 'fisher of men'?

### **Final words of this series**

We are beyond excited for this series and ready to dive deep into the church of today for our church leaders of tomorrow.

## **Series Nine –**

**(Jr & Sr) Hot Topic January – January 6–January 29 (3 part series)**

**(Sr only) Controversial Christianity – April 1–June 3, 2025 (4 part series)**

### **Introduction to this series**

Controversial Christianity/ Hot Topic January is a series we do where we will talk head-on about the 'hot topics' of faith issues going on in society in a Jesus-centred, gospel-focused, scripturally grounded way through topics our youth are inevitably engaging in at school and social media (and often in ways counterproductive to the way of Jesus).

### **What to Know about this series**

This series will talk about various issues through a variety chapel (various seminars one can choose) or at a big chapel to hear a sermon.

The topics that could be covered are as follows: apologetics, mental health, AI, world religions, social media, justice, sexuality, following God in our modern age, the bible's trustworthiness, being an athlete and following Jesus, and deconstruction.

The reason for addressing this issue stems from my experience in Ebenezer Youth, where our youth discuss these topics but often receive answers that contradict Jesus' teachings.

More than ever, social media feeds and influences surrounding our youth are feeding ideologies that are more extreme and can be more contrary to the way of Jesus than people think.

Our goal is to address this and shepherd our youth to follow Him for life.

### **The vision and aim of this series**

I (Will) often find two problems in youth ministries I know of: 1. The youth ministry never engages in hot topics that the youth are really asking about, or 2. The youth ministry only talks about hot-topic issues. And to me, both of these are problematic.

For us, we aim to address the hot-topic issues intentionally in the month of January, and this year will extend this for our Sr youth due to their specific age of development. Therefore, as many surveys point out, creating space for the hard questions to be asked will help in long-term faith in Jesus for our youth.<sup>8</sup>

The vision of this series is as follows:

*"In this world, many hot topics can make us doubt our faith, but instead of avoiding this or only talking about it, we seek to make space to answer the most difficult questions we have head-on in a Jesus-centred, gospel-focused, and biblically grounded way."*

### **Family Discussion Starters**

Here is a list of open-ended questions to consider asking to start discussions while this series is happening:

1. Are there any hot topic issues in society today that sometimes make you doubt your faith/ or Christianity?
2. What are the topics you see that people get most angry about? Which hot topic are you most passionate about?
3. Is there a hot topic on which you have a 'hot take'? If so, what is it?
4. Is there any hot topic questions that you have had for a while that you have wanted to ask?

### **Key Scripture passages to note and read together**

- **Hot topics** – Isaiah 1v17; Matthew 19v3-12; 1 Corinthians 9v24-25; Ephesians 4v29; Philippians 4v6-7; 1 Peter 3v15-16; James 1v5-6

### **Areas where you can dive deeper**

In this series, there are many 'rabbit holes' you can dive deep into and we could spend pages writing on here. We have access to strong faith-based parent/caregiver guides to almost any hot topic you can think of. If you have specific topics in mind you are looking for assistance with, please email Will (Jr/Sr Youth Pastor) at [will@ebenezerbaptist.ca](mailto:will@ebenezerbaptist.ca) and he will get them to you ASAP.

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<sup>8</sup> Pattison, Stephen. "Faith in the Midst of Faithfulness: The Role of Doubt in the Christian Life." *International Journal of Practical Theology* 19, no. 1 (2015): 54-69.

## How to do Family Discipleship in this series

Through these things, as a family, as you discuss, dive into Scripture, and go deeper, helping your youth have accountability and follow-up to thinking in these areas is necessary for growth and more profound faith engagement, which will then allow you to help our youth move to engage with God in more practical ways. As always applicable to any series topic, here are our six foundational questions to ask your youth to move us from the content discussed and learned to spiritual transformation and practice:

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4. What have you learned about God through this topic?
5. Has the Holy Spirit convicted you of sin to confess & repent of?
6. How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to be a 'fisher of men'?

## Final words of this series

We are beyond excited about this series and ready to learn how to approach hot topics in a way that brings honour to God's name.

# Concluding words

We pray that as you and your youth seek to grow in discipleship to Jesus through this family discipleship guide, you will be pointed towards Him and seek to follow Him for life.

***"Jesus called out to them, come and follow me." (Matthew 4v19a)***

If you have any questions/ thoughts/ concerns to bring forward, you can contact William Dmytrow (Jr/Sr Youth Pastor) at [will@ebenezerbaptist.ca](mailto:will@ebenezerbaptist.ca)

Grace and Peace,  
Ebenezer Youth Team

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