



FIRST MCKINNEY
BAPTIST CHURCH

Leader Guide: How to Use This Resource

Thank you for stepping up to lead! These 13 sessions are designed to help your group grow in understanding and application of our church's 11 core beliefs. Each week follows a simple, repeatable pattern using the S.O.S. Method — Say, Obey, Share.

Don't worry about having all the answers. Your role isn't to be a Bible expert — it's to create space for God to speak through His Word and your group conversations. Stay flexible, trust the process, and stay focused on Jesus.

Each Week Includes:

Say (Starting with a passage of Scripture, what is the truth of the text?)

Encourage someone to read the passage aloud slowly. Invite your group to listen for words, phrases, or ideas that stand out.

After the reading, ask:

- "What stood out to you in this passage?"
- "What questions do you have about what we read?"

This keeps the Word central and helps the conversation start with God's voice, not just our opinions.

(S.O.S. stands for Say, Obey, Share.)

Obey

Use the provided questions to help your group explore the meaning of the passage and how it connects to the week's core belief.

You don't need to ask every question — pick the ones that seem most helpful for your group. Be willing to pause, dig deeper, and let the conversation breathe.

Help your group members take a step toward obedience.

Move the conversation from learning to living. Ask something like:

- "How does this truth call us to respond?"
- "What's one specific way you'll live this out this week?"

Encourage each person to be concrete — what, when, and how. Revisit their responses the following week to build accountability and momentum.

Share: Because of this truth and step of obedience, how do you plan to share or live this out this week?

Additional Tips for Leading Well:

- Prioritize time in Scripture and obedience. If time gets tight, those two areas are key.
- You don't have to cover everything. These questions are tools, not a checklist.
- Don't fear the silence. It gives people space to think and the Spirit room to move.
- Model vulnerability and obedience. The tone you set will shape the group culture.
- Pray — before, during, and after. You're not doing this alone.

D-GROUP LESSON 1: Setting the Foundation

Core Purpose:

To establish the purpose of the D-Group, build relationships, and introduce the Three Thirds meeting structure and S.O.S. Bible study method.

Part 1

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Have everyone share their name and one thing they hope to gain from this group.

2. Share the Heart of the D-Group

- "We're here to grow in our relationship with God and with each other. This D-Group is a space to learn and experience how to live and love like Jesus and, eventually, help others do the same."

3. Build Relationships

- Ask:
 - "What are your expectations for this group?"
 - "What does spiritual growth look like to you right now?"

Part 2

Introduce the Three Thirds Meeting Structure

- Explain: "This structure helps us connect, engage with God's Word, and apply it."
 - **Look Back** – Accountability and Care
Check in on life, prayer needs, and encouragement.
 - **Look Up** – God's Word and Equipping
Bible reading and group discussion, using the S.O.S. method.
 - **Look Forward** – Obedience and Mission
Set goals for personal obedience and sharing.

Introduce the S.O.S. Bible Study Method

- Explain: "This helps us go deeper into the Word and live it out."
 - **S** – Say: What does the passage say? (Summarize or retell in your own words.)
 - **O** – Obey: What does this teach me to do?
 - **S** – Share: Who can I share this with this week?
- Provide a simple example using a well-known verse (e.g., John 3:16 or Matthew 28:19-20).

Part 3

Group Expectations

- Discuss and agree upon:
 - Confidentiality
 - Attendance and Participation
 - Encouragement and Accountability
- "Let's agree to protect each other's trust and take this time seriously."

Commitment and Prayer

- Ask: "Are you willing to commit to this group for the next 13 weeks?"
- Pray together:
 - Pray over each member by name.
 - Ask for God's presence and growth in your group.

WRAP-UP

- Set the time and place for the next meeting.
- Briefly introduce the first Bible study lesson for next week:
 - "Next time, we'll jump into the first of our core beliefs from First McKinney and use the S.O.S. method to study together."

D-GROUP LESSON 2: The Inerrant Word of God

Purpose

To understand the Bible as the inspired, inerrant Word of God and its authority in our lives.

PART 1: LOOK BACK — PERSONAL REFLECTION

1. Quick Check-In

- "How was your week? Share a high and a low."
- "Where did you see God this week?"
- "Did you engage with God's Word at all this week?"

PART 2: LOOK UP — GOD'S WORD

2. Core Belief

We affirm the Holy Bible as the inspired, inerrant Word of God and the basis for our beliefs.

3. Scripture Study

- Read 2 Timothy 3:16 aloud.
- Read Romans 15:4 aloud.
- Read 2 Peter 3:1-2 aloud.

S.O.S. Method

- **Say:** What does this verse say about the nature of Scripture?
- **Obey:** How can you apply this truth to your daily life — especially during doubt or difficulty?
- **Share:** Who needs to know the Bible is completely true? How can you tell them?

PART 3: LOOK FORWARD — OBEDIENCE and MISSION

4. Action Plan

- "How will you intentionally use the Word of God this week?"

5. Prayer

- Pray for a hunger for God's Word and boldness to trust and share it.

D-GROUP LESSON 3: The Triune God

Purpose

To explore and honor the triune nature of God — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

LOOK BACK

- "Share a moment this week when you sensed God's presence."
- "How did you relate to the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit in your week?"
- "How was your prayer life?"

LOOK UP

Core Belief

We believe in one triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

(Matthew 28:18-19, 2 Corinthians 13:14, Hebrews 1:1-4)

- Read Matthew 28:18-19 aloud.
- Read 2 Corinthians 13:14 aloud.
- Read Hebrews 1:1-4 aloud.

S.O.S. Method

- **Say:** What does this reveal about the Trinity?
- **Obey:** How can you intentionally honor each Person of the Trinity?
- **Share:** How would you explain the Trinity to someone?

LOOK FORWARD

- Action Plan: Live this week with awareness of and gratitude for the Trinity.
- Prayer: Ask God to deepen your understanding and worship of Him.

D-GROUP LESSON 4: The Deity and Humanity of Christ

Purpose

To reflect on and respond to the full deity and humanity of Jesus.

LOOK BACK

- "When did you see Christ's compassion or power this week?"
- "How have your relationships reflected humility?"

LOOK UP

Core Belief

Jesus is fully God and fully human.

(Philippians 2:5-8, Luke 2:40, John 1:1-5, Hebrews 4:15)

- Read Philippians 2:5-8 aloud.
- Read Luke 2:40 aloud.
- Read John 1:1-5 aloud.
- Read Hebrews 4:15 aloud.

S.O.S. Method

- **Say:** What does this teach about Christ's humility and nature?
- **Obey:** How can you imitate His humility?
- **Share:** Who can you tell about Jesus' dual nature?

LOOK FORWARD

- Action Plan: Practice humility and compassion in your interactions.
- Prayer: Ask God to help you reflect Christ in both attitude and action.

D-GROUP LESSON 5: The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

Purpose

To recognize the ongoing role of the Holy Spirit in the believer's life.

LOOK BACK

- "How did the Holy Spirit lead or convict you this week?"
- "How has your prayer life been affected?"

LOOK UP

Core Belief

The Holy Spirit indwells every believer to guide and empower a godly life.

(John 16:7-11, 1 Corinthians 12:13, Ephesians 4:30)

- Read John 16:7-11 aloud.
- Read 1 Corinthians 12:13 aloud.
- Read Ephesians 4:30 aloud.

S.O.S. Method

- **Say:** What do we learn about the Spirit's role?
- **Obey:** Where do you need to invite His guidance this week?
- **Share:** How can you describe the Spirit's work to someone?

LOOK FORWARD

- Action Plan: Choose one area where you'll ask for the Spirit's guidance this week.
- Prayer: Pray for sensitivity and obedience to His prompting.

D-GROUP LESSON 6: Salvation by Grace Through Faith

Purpose

To understand salvation as God's gift, received through faith — not by works.

LOOK BACK

- "What's one way you saw or shared God's grace this week?"
- "How did you depend on God rather than your own strength?"

LOOK UP

Core Belief

We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ — not by works.

(Ephesians 2:8-9, John 14:6, Romans 5:1-2)

- Read Ephesians 2:8-9 aloud.
- Read John 14:6 aloud.
- Read Romans 5:1-2 aloud.

S.O.S. Method

- **Say:** What does this teach about how we are saved?
- **Obey:** How can you rest in God's grace this week instead of striving?
- **Share:** Who needs to hear this message of grace?

LOOK FORWARD

- Action Plan: Live out of gratitude, not obligation.
- Prayer: Thank God for His unearned grace and ask for boldness to share it.

D-GROUP LESSON 7: The Mission of the Church

Purpose

To understand the church's mission to make disciples and be Christ's ambassadors.

LOOK BACK

- "Who did you intentionally love or serve this week?"
- "How did you take a step in discipling or encouraging someone?"

LOOK UP

Core Belief

The Church is the body of Christ, sent into the world to be His ambassadors.

(Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

- Read Matthew 28:18-20 aloud.
- Read Acts 1:8 aloud.
- Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 aloud.

S.O.S. Method

- **Say:** What is Jesus commanding here?
- **Obey:** Where or with whom can you live out this mission?
- **Share:** How will you talk about your faith this week?

LOOK FORWARD

- Action Plan: Identify one person to invite into a discipling relationship.
- Prayer: Ask God for courage and opportunities to be a faithful ambassador.

D-GROUP LESSON 8: The Return of Christ

Purpose

To fix our hope on Jesus' return and live with urgency and faithfulness.

LOOK BACK

- "How did the hope of Christ affect your week?"
- "Were you distracted by temporary things or focused on eternal ones?"

LOOK UP

Core Belief

Jesus will return to judge and restore, and we live in expectation of that day.

(Acts 1:11, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, Revelation 22:12)

- Read Acts 1:11 aloud.
- Read 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 aloud.
- Read Revelations 22:12 aloud.

S.O.S. Method

- **Say:** What promises are we given?
- **Obey:** How should this affect your daily priorities?
- **Share:** Who can you encourage with this hope?

LOOK FORWARD

- Action Plan: Choose one way to live more intentionally for eternity.
- Prayer: Ask God to keep you alert and ready for His return.

D-GROUP LESSON 9: Devotion to God's Word

Purpose

To develop daily habits of reading, meditating on, and obeying God's Word.

LOOK BACK

- "How was your time in the Word this week?"
- "What did God teach or remind you?"

LOOK UP

Core Belief

God's Word is living and active; we are to meditate on and obey it daily.

(Psalm 119:9-11, Joshua 1:8, Hebrews 4:12)

- Read Psalm 119:9-11 aloud.
- Read Joshua 1:8 aloud.
- Read Hebrews 4:12 aloud.

S.O.S. Method

- **Say:** What stands out about the role of God's Word?
- **Obey:** What's one thing you'll do differently this week with Scripture?
- **Share:** How can you encourage someone else to love the Word?

LOOK FORWARD

- Action Plan: Set a consistent time to be in God's Word this week.
- Prayer: Ask for hunger and consistency in engaging Scripture.

D-GROUP LESSON 10: A Life of Prayer

Purpose

To grow in continual, relational conversation with God through prayer.

LOOK BACK

- "When and how did you pray this week?"
- "What prayers did God answer — or has not answered yet?"

LOOK UP

Core Belief

Prayer is our relational lifeline with God; we are to pray continually.

(Philippians 4:6-7, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Romans 8:26)

- Read Philippians 4:6-7 aloud.
- Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 aloud.
- Read Romans 8:26 aloud.

S.O.S. Method

- **Say:** What does this passage reveal about how and why we pray?
- **Obey:** What will you bring to God in prayer this week?
- **Share:** Who can you pray with or for this week?

LOOK FORWARD

- Action Plan: Commit to one specific time or situation you'll pray daily.
- Prayer: Invite the Spirit to lead your prayers and deepen your trust.

D-GROUP LESSON 11: A Life of Worship

Purpose

To live all of life as worship, offering ourselves to God daily.

LOOK BACK

- "How did you worship God outside of Sunday this week?"
- "Was your heart postured in surrender?"

LOOK UP

Core Belief

Worship is our whole-life response to who God is and what He's done.

(Romans 12:1, John 4:23-24, Psalm 95:1-7)

- Read Romans 12:1 aloud.
- Read John 4:23-24 aloud.
- Read Psalms 95:1-7 aloud.

S.O.S. Method

- **Say:** What does true worship look like?
- **Obey:** What's one area of your life you need to surrender in worship?
- **Share:** How can you explain worship beyond just music?

LOOK FORWARD

- Action Plan: Identify one area of your daily life to offer as worship.
- Prayer: Ask God for a heart that treasures Him above all else.

D-GROUP LESSON 12: The Importance of Community

Purpose

To embrace biblical community for growth, encouragement, and accountability.

LOOK BACK

- "How did you experience or contribute to community this week?"
- "Who encouraged or sharpened you?"

LOOK UP

Core Belief

We grow best in Christ through authentic, accountable community.

(Hebrews 10:24-25, Acts 2:42-47, Galatians 6:2)

- Read Hebrews 10:24-25 aloud.
- Read Acts 2:42-47 aloud.
- Read Galatians 6:2 aloud.

S.O.S. Method

- **Say:** What do these verses say about Christian community?
- **Obey:** How can you be more intentional in community this week?
- **Share:** Who do you know who needs this kind of fellowship?

LOOK FORWARD

- Action Plan: Reach out to encourage someone or meet with a fellow believer.
- Prayer: Ask God to grow your love and commitment to Christian community.

D-GROUP LESSON 13: Making Disciples

Purpose

To embrace Jesus' call to reproduce disciples and spiritual generations.

LOOK BACK

- "What steps did you take toward reaching out or meeting with a fellow believer this week?"
- "Did you model or share your faith with anyone?"
- Make a list of 3-5 people close to you who do not have a relationship with Jesus.

LOOK UP

Core Belief

Every believer is called to make disciples who make disciples.

(2 Timothy 2:2, Matthew 28:19-20, John 15:8)

- Read 2 Timothy 2:2 aloud.
- Read Matthew 28:19-20 aloud.
- Read John 15:8 aloud.

S.O.S. Method

- **Say:** What does disciple-making look like, practically?
- **Obey:** Who will you begin investing in spiritually?
- **Share:** How can you encourage your group to multiply?

LOOK FORWARD

- Action Step: Ask God to show you your next step in disciple-making.
 - Do you want this group to continue, and are you committed to being discipled by this group leader?
 - Is it time for you to begin discipling someone else? Identify one person you can intentionally invest in this month.
- Prayer: Ask God to lead you in taking your next faithful step to make disciples who live and love like Jesus — whether by growing in guidance or guiding someone else.