**Coming Home: Using First Steps/First Principles Bible Study Series**

My goal here is to inspire you with a vision of what God will be doing through you personally and through our church this year.

Remember the challenge: Every member in a study with someone this Fall (restoration, follow-up, Jesus Studies of First Steps)

Coming Home: 3 aspects

I. Sheep who have strayed coming home. Restoring those who have left.

II. Taking care of the lambs—the young sheep.

III. Those who have never had a real spiritual family coming home. Saving the lost.

We have four study series that we use to help these people:

1. Steps Back/Restoration studies.

2. Next Steps/Follow-up studies.

3. Jesus Study Series.

4. His Steps (that we used to call First Principles)

For those we want to study the Bible with, there are two possibilities:

**1. Is this person relatively religious? Does the person think he or she is probably saved? Do they, at least theoretically believe the Bible is from God?**

**This person should do the His Steps/First Principles Bible study series.**

**Or**

**2. This person has almost no or only a limited background in Christianity. He or she is not even completely sure that they believe Jesus is the Son of God or that the Bible is inspired by God.**

**This person should do the Jesus study series.**

Let’s get started!

1. Ask the person to study.

2. Ideally, get at least one other person in the study, but do NOT delay it for this reason.

3. The first study:

Ask questions.

Do a spiritual timeline.

When you do this do NOT pre-judge!!!! Apply the Golden Rule.

You and/or partner share your spiritual “story.” Emphasize how you came to be interested in studying, and be quite specific about the exact date and circumstances when you were baptized.

Ask the person and listen VERY CAREFULLY.

Do you believe the Bible is the Word of God/inspired?

Why do you believe this?

Do you believe you are a Christian? Do you believe you are saved?

When and how (and please be VERY specific) were you forgiven of your sins?

What was your frame of mind at the time?

Do NOT try to convince them they are wrong. Just listen

**For person #1**

Seeking God study optional. It can be done in the first meeting after what you already did above.

The Word study is optional, but very highly recommended.

Discipleship study not optional!!!

**Seeking God.**

The purpose (always keep in mind the purpose. Do not just go through the verses) To get the person excited about and, more importantly, committed to studying the Bible with you.

Jeremiah 29:11-14

Mention the context (Jerusalem has been destroyed because of their idolatry and other sins. They will be in captivity for 70 years!)

Q: What does God have in mind for you acc. to this passage?

Q: How do we find God according to this passage?

Q: Are you prepared to “seek God with all your heart?”

Q: What, specifically, will you do?

Acts 17:26-28

Give the context (Paul speaking to intellectual Gentiles in Athens)

What has God been doing in order to “find” you?

Note: This is the classical Seeking God study. The next two passages are optional.

Psalm 42:1-2

Q: How do you feel about having the opportunity to “meet with God?”

Q: What will you commit to doing this week to make this happen?

Matthew 6:33

Q: What does it mean to you to “Seek first the Kingdom of God?”

Q: What specific steps will you take to put this into action?

At the end:

Set up the next study: date, time and place.

**The Word of God**

Purpose: To establish solidly that the Bible is the ONLY source of truth and standard of how we should live, and to motivate them to personally study the Bible.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Q: What does it mean when Paul says “All Scripture is inspired by God”?

(Give the person a solid definition if they cannot. It means that every word of both the Old and the New Testament is supernaturally from God—it is God speaking to us.)

Q: Do you believe this?

Q: Why do you believe this? (supply reasons if they do not, for example from fulfilled prophecy, accurate science and history, evidence for miracles of Jesus)

Q: What is it useful for? I have no authority over you, but if I use the Bible, then that carries authority.

2 Peter 1:18-21 This passage complements 2 Tim 3:16-17

Q: What does it say about Scripture?

Q: What does that mean for you and for me?

Hebrews 4:12-13

Q: What does it mean that the Word of God is living and active?

Q: What is it active in doing? (cutting)

Q: What is the significance that it can even separate between soul and spirit? (It makes distinctions and the truth clear)

Q: Are you willing for the God to use the Bible to expose you?

John 8:31-32

Q: Read this carefully. Who is Jesus speaking to? (answers people who believe in him)

Q: Is belief in his words sufficient to be a disciple of Jesus?

Q: What is required? Q: What does “holding to his teaching” mean?

Q: Are you prepared to hold to his teaching/practice what Jesus says?

Matthew 15:1-9 note: how much time you have to spend here depends on the person. If they are Catholic, for example, you will need to spend more time here

Q: What is it that Jesus says that we can do which would make our worship be in vain?

Q: In the bottom line, if you learn something you were taught is in fact a non-biblical tradition, will you be willing to follow the Bible rather than your tradition?

1 Tim 4:16

Q: Which is more important: having the right life or the right doctrine?

Q: If you are way off on either, what will be the result (not saved)

Generally, maintaining right “life” is a bigger part of the Christian life, but correct doctrine is essential to salvation.

John 12:48

Q: It says that Jesus did not come to the earth in order to judge, but according to this passage, what will be the standard of judgment?

Q: What does this mean about/to you?

Acts 17:10-12 (let him/her know who the Thessalonians and the Bereans were)

Q: What was more “noble” about the Bereans?

Challenge: Will you commit here and now to daily Bible study and to not only read it, but doing what it says?