

FOUNDATIONS

STUDY GUIDE

*"The rain came down, the streams rose,
and the winds blew and beat against
that house; yet it did not fall, because
it had its **foundation** on the **rock**."*

MATTHEW 7:25 NIV

FOUNDATIONS OF THE ROCK STUDY GUIDE

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CHURCH OF THE ROCK

1397 Buffalo Place, Winnipeg MB R3T 1L6

Tel. (204) 261-0070 Toll-Free 1-877-700-7625

www.churchoftherock.ca

Session 1

Introduction

Throughout the next weeks we will be sharing some of the beliefs of the Christian faith and of Church of the Rock. You will get to experience some of the bonding and relational strength that can be received in the small home group cell structures. As well, you will receive academic and spiritual impartation that will help to equip you to live effectively as a believer in Jesus Christ and will better enable you to be a positive witness for Christ in the situations around you.

In a way this will be just the beginning, for you will just begin to develop relationships with individuals and you will just begin to comprehend some of the great truths within the scriptures. Continued relational development will take place as you get more involved in the home group cells, and further training will come as you read God's Word, attend services, pray and meditate on the Scriptures.

OUR VISION

*Helping people to KNOW GOD,
LIVE FREE, and FIND PURPOSE.*

Philippians 3:10-12

Know God

We want to help people to know God, continue knowing God and continue growing in the knowledge of God. It's why we worship, why we do small group and why we preach the Word of God. If we will learn to know God, then actually everything else is possible, but if we don't figure out that part, then none of the other stuff works. To know God is one of the underlying principles of everything we do.

Philippians 3:10 - ". . . that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death . . ."

- having a consistent life-giving experience and relationship with God the Father through the work of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit
- God has placed within the heart of every individual the desire to connect with Him in meaningful ways

Live Free

We want to live in the freedom God gives us through Jesus Christ, to be free of sin, free of sickness, free of financial burden, free of anxiety, free of mental illness, and the list goes on and on. If the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed!

John 8:36 - "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."

- the ability to effectively live our lives in obedience to God's Word, without being inhibited by any negative physical, emotional, mental or spiritual pressures

Find Purpose

If we're not living out our God-given purpose, we are not growing and progressing and making a difference in our world. We want to make a contribution beyond ourselves, to fulfil the reason God created each of us.

Philippians 3:12 – "Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me."

- developing our greatest potential and using our natural and God-given gifts and abilities in ways that produce lasting fruitfulness

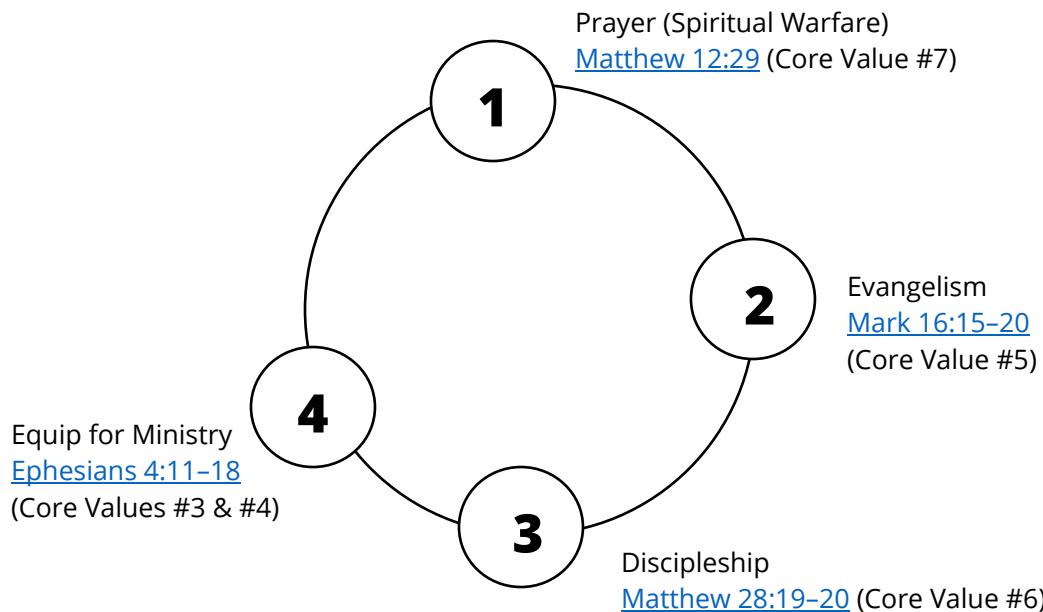
OUR MISSION STATEMENT

When the core values are put into practice they bring about the end result of our mission statement, which is:

**To impact our city, our country, the nations,
by preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ,
teaching family values, and reaching out to
those in need. ([Matthew 4:23](#))**

As the values and mission of the church are being carried out there should always be a cycle of prayer and evangelism bringing new people into the church, these new believers are to be discipled and equipped for ministry, and they, in turn, with the former people, are to continue to pray and evangelize.

The Cycle of the Mission of the Church



OUR CORE VALUES

Throughout this course we will be looking at the seven core values of Church of the Rock. These core values are what make up the foundation of our guiding principles for Church of the Rock. In entirety the core values are:

1. Relationship

First and foremost, the church must be a place in which God joins people together in relationships to form a community of believers.

2. Cell & Celebration

Church life should include both the celebration of the weekend services and the intimacy of smaller relational groups (or cells).

3. Ministry of All Believers

All believers are called to minister and therefore can serve one another in their God given gifts and talents.

4. Liberty in Accountability

The church is unleashed when people are discipled and given a liberty to be released in their creativity and gifts, yet required to walk in accountability one with another.

5. Advancing the Kingdom

We must never lose sight of the ultimate mission of the church which is for the advancement of the kingdom of God and bringing people into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

6. Biblical and Relevant

The church should never compromise the biblical truths and imperatives, yet at the same time the church should seek to be relevant to the needs of a modern world.

7. House of Prayer

The church is to be a people committed to praying for others. Jesus declared, "My house shall be a house of prayer for all peoples" (*Matthew 21:13*).

Core Value #1: RELATIONSHIP

Throughout the remainder of this lesson we will be looking at the importance of developing relationships within the Church, the body of Christ.

The **first core value** of Church of the Rock is that "**First and foremost the church must be a place in which God joins people together in relationships to form a community of believers.**" It is not somewhere people go on Sunday morning; it is not a denomination or organization, bank account or building. The church is the people.

[1 Corinthians 12:27](#) tells us how God has placed us into a relationship of being a part of the body of Christ. [Ephesians 2:16-19](#) says that when we accept Christ, we are born into the family of God. In days past, we were separate and isolated from the family of God ([Ephesians 2:12](#)), but now we can approach God in confidence ([Hebrews 4:16](#)). It is not God's intention that we be by ourselves, to struggle through life alone; therefore God has placed us into His family, the church ([Ephesians 3:15](#), [John 1:12-13](#), [Colossians 1:24](#)).

God's plan for the church is that it be a place where His glory and fullness would dwell throughout all generations ([Ephesians 3:19, 21](#)), and where the manifold wisdom of God would be displayed to demonic and human entities ([Ephesians 3:10](#)). God has purposed that the church is to be the radiant bride of Christ, without spot or wrinkle, holy and blameless ([Ephesians 5:25-27](#)).

God's love, power, wisdom and authority is to move through the Church to such an extent that it will cause all the nations to stand and take notice of the Church and Jesus Christ, its head ([Isaiah 2:1-5](#)).

The Universal Church

Within the Scriptures, the thought of the **universal church** refers to all believers in Christ, both dead and living from all races and nations ([Ephesians 2:19-22](#), [Matthew 16:17-19](#), [Hebrews 12:22-23](#)). The church, when used in the sense of the universal Body of Christ, speaks to us in terms of God's general and overall plan as it relates to the whole of the human race and the universe. Though this concept is present in these particular verses, most of the scriptures relating to the church refer to the local church.

The City Church

The **city church** is the broad overall expression of the church of Jesus Christ in a city. Though the city church is more visible than the universal church, it is still somewhat intangible and the believer cannot directly relate to it. In the spiritual sense, God's people must be properly related to those in their own local church before they'll be able to properly minister to or receive from those within other situations of the city church.

God's purpose is that the city church would gather at times to express its united commitment to the Lord Jesus (i.e., prayer in the park). The city church also works together as individual churches unite for the purpose of evangelization and of the advancement for the Kingdom of God in their city.

Most churches now realize that the task of winning their cities for Jesus will never be completed unless the churches begin working together in unity and co-operation. Greater unity within the early New Testament churches enabled the city church to work in harmony for the effective furtherance of the gospel. ([Acts 11:22](#), [13:1](#), [Romans 16:1](#), [1 Corinthians 1:2](#))

The Local Church

The term **church**, when used in relation to a local group or body of believers, is the concrete expression of the universal and the city church. The **local church** could be called a group of believers in any given community that

gathers in accordance with Christ's teachings and forms His Body in that area. As such, the church is not a place, but a group of redeemed people who have proper structure, order, ministry, and relationships. Two or three believers gathering in a living room do not constitute, in itself, a church. Believers are united in local churches for the purpose of containing, revealing and enjoying God ([Matthew 18:20](#); [Romans 14:17](#)).

Some people tend to think that they are free to roam from one group of Christians to another group of Christians, picking up the blessing here and the good times there. These people fail to see the importance of relationships and how strength, growth and ministry develop out of and function through healthy relationships. Just as in a natural body certain body parts function best together, so also in the spiritual body. For instance, the thumb functions best with the hand and the fingers next to it. Though it might at times touch the knee or scratch the back, yet the thumb does not connect itself to the knee or to the back. It is only when the thumb gets nourishment and support from the tissues around it that it can properly give help to the other parts of the body.

[Psalm 92:13-15](#) tells us that it is those who are properly established within the church who will flourish and have fruitful lives even into their old age.

Core Value #2: CELL AND CELEBRATION

The second core value of Church of the Rock is that "**Church life should include both the celebration of the weekend services and the intimacy of smaller relational groups (or cells).**" Celebration provides a setting where the whole church body comes together in unity of purpose, edification, and teaching. Cells provide a small group setting where people develop relationships and intimacy, and care for one another.

Acts 2:42-47 clearly exemplifies a healthy church having both cell and celebration.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising

God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. (Acts 2:42-47 NKJV)

In this structure there was:

- a. Study of the Word
- b. Fellowship
- c. Communion
- d. Prayer
- e. Fear of the Lord
- f. Signs & Wonders
- g. Giving & Charity
- h. Unity
- i. Home Groups
- j. Praise & Worship
- k. Evangelism

Circle where these aspects of church life occur in the verses above.

ACTION STEPS

Regularly participate in:

- 1) Weekend Celebration services**
- 2) Home Group or small relational group**
- 3) Power & Praise Nights**