

**What aspects of the Christian life should someone discipling young Christians emphasize first (what aspects are foundational)?**

We should never take for granted that anyone—much less someone who has only recently made a profession of faith—is clear on the Gospel. That’s why I explain and review the Gospel in every session with a new believer until I am sure that he thoroughly understands the message of salvation.

As the convert’s grasp of the Gospel strengthens, I begin to help him develop the verbal testimony of his salvation, making sure that the Gospel is the centerpiece of his story. But this is far more than just a time to refine the wording; it’s also an occasion to disciple through explaining *why* some things should be said, omitted, or modified.

Next, I want to help this young Christian become grounded in the pursuit of Christ through Scripture and prayer. I will guide him both in reading the Bible and in meditating on it. Along with this I will teach him how to pray through a passage of Scripture, especially from the Psalms.

From the outset of this process, I want to ensure that the new believer is planted in a healthy, loving, Bible-preaching church. Early on we talk about the Bible’s teaching on baptism and church membership. I also want him to experience the benefits of the teaching ministry of the church and to introduce him to solid Christian literature.

There’s much to follow close on the heels of these things, but these are a good start for the Christian’s endlessly fascinating journey to Heaven.

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