

THE PREPARED BELIEVER

Believer: Someone who has made the decision to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and has allowed Him to come into their heart.

Goal (Part 1): Ensure that disciple has basic understanding of what it means to be a Christian, the major themes and format of the Bible, major personalities, and events. The disciple should be able to convey this information to someone else; possibly someone they will disciple or will be a witness to.

In the world of sports, referees are employed to help assure that the game is played fairly in accordance with the rules. We expect that these individuals should be experts in the rules and we get quite upset when rules are not known or misapplied. Some Christians seem to be comfortable not knowing the basics of Christianity, i.e., the rules.

If someone came up to you and asked about what the Bible means, could you tell them in a systematic and logical manner?

What are the core truths that every believer should know?

Why is it important to have a solid understanding of core beliefs?

Initially, don't worry about grand theological arguments. Stick to basics. Jesus said we need to come to him as little children, not PhDs in theology. Basics provide a framework for hanging sub-concepts. The historical stories of the Bible make more sense if one understands the overreaching concepts.

Why is it important to have an understanding of the Bible that is personal? – *If it's not personally important to you, why should it be important to someone else?*

Do I create my own gospel when I emphasize parts over others? – *There's a difference between recognizing areas that are important to you and starting a new branch of Christianity based on a focus on one passage or concept.*

Goal (Part 2): Your faith is really about a relationship with the God of the entire universe. If the relationship isn't real, Part 1 is pointless. Each believer needs to recognize how Jesus Christ is working in her life through the growing relationship. We are called to be a witness for Jesus Christ; we usually can't argue someone into the Kingdom.

When Jesus is our core, we will be unable not to talk about Him to others. It's who we are first and foremost even before being a man or a woman, black or white, a scientist or a janitor. This is being a living witness for Jesus Christ. There is no better evangelist and discipler than someone who lives his life devoted to Jesus Christ.

Some rules for communicating your faith

- Biblically sound
- Personally important
- Readily expressed
- Modifiable for the current audience

Assignment: (Part 1) Make a list of

- **10 Concepts** (Core biblical ideas that your faith hangs on)
- **10 People** (Who are the most important people in the Bible to you? – Jesus should be on list)
- **10 Events** (What events are most meaningful to your faith?)
- **10 Verses** (What passages of the Bible are most important to your life?)

Assignment: (Part 2): Write a concise story of how Jesus Christ changed your life. What is your relationship like? What is the reason for your hope and joy? Is Jesus more than just a get out of hell free card?