

## **"First Principles" Small Group Material:** ***Discover church-based discipleship***

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Workshop 3—Daniel Huffstutler

You have never seen anything as well-designed as *The First Principles Series*. Key ideas that make *The First Principles Series* so unique and helpful:

- It uses a better approach: Biblical Theology focuses on the main teaching and emphases of the Apostles in the New Testament.
- It uses a better method: Socratic discussion—learning to think Biblically by “circling around” key Biblical passages and ideas with the goal of developing both wisdom and life change.
- It develops better skills: Lead a good discussion, do biblical theology, think biblically, think and record your thoughts, and coach others to do the same.

*“One great need today is a renewal of systematic Christian instruction—catechetical teaching—for adults....opportunities must be given for folk in and just outside the churches to examine the Christian essentials, because there are so many for whom this is a prime need.” –J. I. Packer*

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### **How Do You Establish Your Church in Biblical Truth?**

#### **I. Is there an establishing process in the New Testament?**

*Acts 14:21–23; Acts 15:36–16:5; Acts 18:22–23:2; Romans 1:8–15;  
Romans 16:25–27; 1 Thessalonians 3:1–13; 2 Thessalonians 2:17*

#### **II. What does it mean to be established in the faith?**

### **III. What stages can we see in the New Testament?**

1. Proclaiming — *Acts 14:19–21; 16:6–10; Romans 15:17–19*
2. Gathering — *Acts 14:21–23; Titus 1:5*
3. Establishing — *Acts 16:1–5; Philippians 2:19–30; Romans 1:8–15; 16:25–27; 2 Corinthians 1:12–2:13; 7:5–12; 1 Thessalonians 2:17–3:10*
4. Outreaching — *Philippians 1:3–7, 27–30; 4:10–20*
5. Mentoring — *2 Timothy 2:2*

### **IV. An Establishing Plan**

## ***The First Principles***

*The First Principles Series is a set of 13, six-session, dialogue-based Bible study guides for use by church leaders and mature Christians to establish believers and churches in the faith. Rather than a typical fill-in-the-blank approach, the series employs a highly effective learning process involving biblical passages and readings, community dialogue, and personal reflection and projects. Teaching core principles of Christ and His Apostles, this series guides participants in becoming firmly established in their faith.*

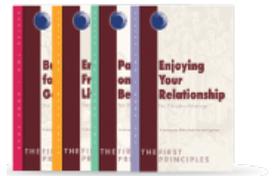
**Series I:** covers the process of establishing *believers* in their faith in the context of a local church—a household of God.

- *Becoming a Disciple*
- *Belonging to a Family of Families*
- *Participating in the Mission of the Church*
- *Cultivating Habits of the Heart*



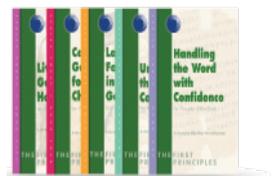
**Series II:** turns participants' attention from the household of God—a local church—to individual households—the family. God's plan for husbands, wives, parents, and children is set in the context of the local church family.

- *Enjoying Your Relationship*
- *Passing on Your Beliefs*
- *Envisioning Fruitful Lifework*
- *Building for Future Generations*



**Series III:** moves from passages to entire New Testament books, first developing a clear process of accurately interpreting these books, then revisiting the first principles in the context of Acts and Paul's letters.

- *Handling the Word with Confidence*
- *Unfolding the Great Commission*
- *Laying Solid Foundations in the Gospel*
- *Catching God's Vision for the Church*
- *Living in God's Household*



***What plan do you have to establish your church in the faith?***