

# Practical Small Group Discipleship: *Use the “First Principles” to Establish Your Church in the Faith*

Workshop 8—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.

*The First Principles Series* will give new believers a solid foundation in the Scriptures to build on. If you’ve been a follower of Jesus for a long time, you’ve likely seen some other methods of discipling. *The First Principles Series* will help you pull things together and give you a clarity you’ve perhaps never had.

## Key Ideas of the First Principles

**Key Idea #1:** Return to a Theological, Historical Idea (i.e. *The Didache* - the NT teaching on how to live)

**Key Idea #2:** Use a Biblical Theology Approach: Read Bible as Authors Intended

**Key Idea #3:** Learn a Consistent Study Process

**Key Idea #4:** Develop New Ministry Skills

1. How to do biblical theology.
2. How to read well.
3. How to lead a Socratic discussion.

4. How to think deeply.
5. How to do qualitative assessment — shepherd people.
6. How to develop a portfolio — a record of progress.

## Leaders' Tips

1. Study the introductions.
2. Write your own questions.
3. Don't forget Session 6 - record your convictions and decisions
4. Do the assessments based on the Scriptures.
5. Remember the mission: A strong and thorough foundation in apostle's teaching.

## Consistent Study Process (CSP)

*The CSP used in The First Principles series takes participants through a learning cycle each time they study a passage in the Scriptures. There are four basic steps to the process and one final step that integrates the work from the first four.*

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**Study the Scriptures:** You will begin with a passage to read, answer a few basic questions about the passage, and finally summarize the core teaching of the passage.



**Consult the Scholars:** You will begin by reading and reflecting on a commentary and key quotes and then recording your insights from the readings.



**Think Through the Issues:** You will begin by thinking through the issues and recording your initial thoughts, then discussing the issue in your small group and recording any final thoughts after the discussion.



**Apply the Principles:** In this step you will think back through the first three steps and design an application for your life.



**Reshaping Our Lives:** This step brings together the entire study process as you reflect on your work in the first five sessions and rethink your entire life in light of the truths you have been studying—rearranging your worldview.

