



NEXT STEPS

Starting your Christian Journey

PART 1

LEADER'S GUIDE

NEXT STEPS (PART 1)

Lesson 1

Intro: Beginning a New Life Assurance of Salvation

- What kind of assurances do we have when we receive Christ into our lives?
- Encourage them to start reading the Gospel of Mark

Lesson 2

Your New Relationship With God

- How did your new relationship with God begin?
- Christianity is not a religion, it is a relationship with God
- 3 characteristics of this relationship

Lesson 3

Listening to God

- How does God speak to us?
- How can I know when God speaks to me?
- Taking the new believer through a practical time of listening to God

Lesson 4

Talking to God

- How to approach God in prayer
- P-A-R-T Guideline
- Taking the new believer through practical session of Time with God
- Challenge him / her to have a consistent and quality Time with God

Lesson 5

Four Kinds of Hearts

- The Parable of the Sower

 **LEADER'S NOTE:** Ideally, you would want to complete a lesson once every 1-2 weeks. However, if the disciple needs more time to be ready, match their pace.

The Heart of Next Steps

▶ LEADER'S RESOURCE

Before you use this resource

Next Steps is a resource to help you build a StronG Church.

Head to StronGchurch.com to:

- Download the digital version (editable to contextualise to your church)
- Share your email to get a “how-to” guide



<https://gens.link/NS-L0>

This is a **follow up** to someone getting saved. Their journey towards becoming a StronG disciple begins through these Next Steps lessons.

When someone is new to the church, a few people may know them.
But through Next Steps, at least two leaders can get to know them at a deeper level.

The lessons are just the next steps in the discipleship journey.

The lessons in themselves are not discipleship.

They are an opportunity for you to build relationship for discipleship.

The ultimate goal is that you have a discipleship relationship with this person.

It is only through a relationship that there is potential for discipleship.

This relationship goes beyond the lesson!

We encourage you to do Next Steps lessons in a Team of 3. 

- More info on the Team of 3 is under “*Practical Wisdoms for Next Steps Lessons*” on page 4.
- If you want to do these lessons in a class, ensure you put in at least 30 minutes after the class for the leaders to build the discipleship relationship.

Who should go through Next Steps?

These lessons are not just for new Christians, but for BOTH 1st and 2nd-Generation Christians.

- 1st Generation Christians – it is a given as they are new to the Faith.
- 2nd Generation Christians – use these lessons to ascertain if they have a personal relationship with God.
 - Some of them may just be attending church without a personal relationship with God.
 - For those who are already connected to God, you can focus on Christian living, authority and victory, etc.

An Encouragement to Every Leader

God uses godly leaders to raise StronG disciples for His Kingdom.

You have a very important role to play in the disciple's life.

Next Steps will be hard work – patiently discipling a believer, one lesson at a time.

Before we dive into the Leader's Guide which teaches the "how", we must understand the "why".

▀ LEADER'S RESOURCE

Ministry of ArrowS: Raising StronG Disciples for a StronG church

Psalm 127 describes youths as ArrowS.

How you see young people will shape how you engage, disciple and send them out.

Make Disciples. Make ArrowS. Build GenerationS!



<https://gens.link/NS-L1>

1. ArrowS need to be Sharpened and Straightened

- Through Next Steps, you are sharpening and straightening the ArrowS.
- These lessons are precious moments for encouragement, affirmation and correction.

2. ArrowS can only be launched by Pulling Backwards

- Sometimes, these lessons may feel repetitive, like you are being pulled back.
- Press on... with the mindset of ArrowS and GenerationS – what seems like 10 steps in Reverse Mode will become 100 steps forward when the ArrowS are Released!

3. ArrowS must be Released

- After these lessons, we release the ArrowS into the destiny that God has for them!

Now that you have caught the heart – begin this journey of raising StronG disciples!

NOTES

✍ **LEADER'S NOTE:** Write down your convictions on leading people closer to God. On days where you are discouraged or frustrated, revisit these notes to encourage yourself in the Lord.

Practical Wisdoms for Next Steps Lessons

Next Steps is also where the disciple can share what is on his / her heart.

Having some practical wisdoms in place will protect both the disciple and yourself as the leader.

As leaders, we have a crucial part to play in the development of the disciple.

We need to steward this responsibility with the fear of God.

1. During Next Steps lessons, we respect the Team of 3

Next Steps should be done in a Team of 3. There should be at least 3 people together and this applies for lessons done in-person and online.

There are two purposes of the Team of 3. 

Purpose #1: Safety and Accountability

Having 3 people provides safety and accountability – it is to protect the leaders and also the disciple.

Next Steps should be conducted in a public place e.g. church premises.

During Next Steps, don't cross boundaries – physical or emotional.

Even in online / phone interactions, use group chats instead of one-to-one texting.

Purpose #2: Discipleship and Training

While these lessons are the first step to the discipleship of a new member, there is also a training element within it.

A Team of 3 usually comprises – Leader + New Christian + Leader-in-Training.

The Leader will then debrief the Leader-in-Training after the Next Steps lesson.

This is how discipleship and training takes place.

E.g. A 20 year old Leader guides a 16 year old Leader-in-Training to disciple a 14 year old New Christian.

This way, discipleship becomes scalable, with youths leading other youths!

2. Cater and Contextualise Next Steps to your Church

GenerationS and StronG church can be applied across denominations.

Every church and pastor has their own distinct theology and way of doing church – we respect this!

Even as this Leader's Guide is handed to you, adapt and adopt it to your church.

- E.g. We use the NLT or NKJV translation in most of the verses. But if your church uses another version or the translation is different in your language, feel free to use it instead.
- E.g. There is an optional part in one of the lessons about the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. If you are Pentecostal / Charismatic, use it! But it is optional and you can skip it as well.

Remember, GenerationS doesn't change your church vision!

GenerationS is here to help, not to hinder.

3. Discipleship is Not Controlling

While we encourage leaders to build relationships with the new Christians for discipleship to take place, we don't own people. Discipleship is not ownership. It is Followship – we follow Christ!

“Truth without Love is harshness.

Love without Truth is weakness.”

- Pastor Lia

We need to find the balance of truth and love to be strong, godly leaders.

Discipleship is not harsh. “Discipleship is BOTH Affirmation and Correction.”

From the disciple's point of view, “When I feel your Affection, I can take your Correction!”

It is essential that we have the right balance in discipleship.

► LEADER'S RESOURCE

The Gold Standard of Discipleship

What is the Bible's Gold Standard of Discipleship?

Jesus outlines it in Mark 10... Speaking the truth in love.

Discipleship is BOTH Affirmation and Correction.

Find the balance, and raise StronG disciples!



<https://gens.link/NS-L2>

4. You are the Nurse, Not the Doctor

You are a pastoral leader, not Superman.

Our role is to direct those we lead to the Chief Physician, Jesus!

During Next Steps lessons, the disciple may share sensitive information with you.

For matters that you are not equipped to handle, seek help from your pastor or your leaders.

In some cases, beyond our pastoral help, the disciple may need professional help.

E.g. someone is suicidal, has serious trauma, etc.

Keep communicating with your pastors and leaders to guide your disciple most effectively.

Equipped with these wisdoms, conduct your Next Steps lessons wisely!

NOTES