

WELCOME TO THE CORE

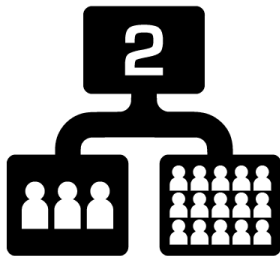
WHAT IS THE CORE?

Help students develop a strong foundation

The Core is a year-long curriculum designed to help students grow deep roots of faith. It's an easy-to-use resource that teaches eight core principles of discipleship through Bible study lessons. Each lesson builds on the last to keep discipleship at the center of your student ministry. Week after week you will teach solid Biblical truth paired with engaging experiences that encourage students to exercise their growing faith.

Lessons are divided into 8 "Roots" (or principles) of discipleship. Each Root has its own theme, animated video, lessons, and even a series of bonus Sermons/Large Group Talks for ministries that meet in multiple contexts.

DESIGNED FOR MULTIPLE ENVIRONMENTS



Each lesson provides you with TWO TRACKS—a *Small Group Lesson* or a *Large Group Talk*—and includes these key elements: a Bible study, modern day examples, discussion questions, an experiential activity, a focus on clear life application, and additional illustrations or object lessons. The Facilitator Guide contains everything in the Student Guide, plus some additional material. We've built in flexibility to meet your changing needs.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

The Core includes 40 Lessons, divided into smaller, 5-lesson sets (PDF and Word), and 32 Bonus Sermons. We've included one lesson in this sample with corresponding graphics. *The Core* is the foundation of the Deep Discipleship system (including the [8 Roots of Deep Discipleship](#)), designed to help your students grow deep faith. Each one of the 8 Roots is covered in-depth in its own set of lessons.

THE CORE ALSO INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING (NOT INCLUDED IN SAMPLE):

*For a full list, see [What's Included](#) on page 8.

- Animated Videos for each root
- Video Training for Adult Leaders
- Parent Guides
- Media and Graphics

WHAT DO I DO NEXT?

It's simple. Included in this sample is one lesson (*Adoption*) from the *RESCUE ROOT* set of lessons. Open the folder entitled *RESCUE ROOT* and you'll find a Facilitator Guide and Student Guide.

To learn more about *Encounters*, check out the *SCOPE AND SEQUENCE* that give you an entire overview of this resource.

Have Any Questions?
Give us a call!



THE 8 ROOTS OF DEEP DISCIPLESHIP

RESCUE

The Rescue Root helps students understand their need for a savior:

We are slaves, held captive by terrible enemies: sin and death. In this fallen, corrupt, and shattered world, we need a rescuer—Jesus, our Savior and Redeemer. In fact, he’s the only one who can free us. And once we’ve been freed, we have the opportunity to join in the rescue mission for others.

APOLOGETICS

The Apologetics Root, which prepares students to explain the hope they have in Christ:

The Bible encourages us to defend our faith: “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,” (1 Pet. 3:15, ESV). That’s the point of apologetics—to explain our hope in Christ to others. In the Apologetics Root your students will find ways to do just that.

COMMUNITY

The Community Root, which helps students understand the meaning of biblical fellowship:

We weren’t created to be alone. Our emotional, physical, and spiritual well-beings depend on deep, loving relationships with other people. God has created a family for you. They are his people, and they will help you grow in another essential connection—with God.

IDENTITY

The Identity Root, which helps students discover their unique identity in Christ:

God created humans in his own image, unique in all creation. Then sin entered the picture, and all people developed a warped version of their original identity. Christ came and died on the cross and rose again to offer us a new identity, even better than the first. He took on our sin and shame so we could take on his righteousness. He identifies with us so we can find our identity in him—a redeemed identity.

KNOWLEDGE

The Knowledge Root, which helps students understand the basics about God:

God is enormous. He’s too big, too awesome, and too complicated to wrap our minds around. Yet he wants us to know him. He wants a relationship with us, so he has revealed himself in a number of ways. We will never know everything about God. But in order to become his disciples, we need to know some essential truths about the One we follow.

WORSHIP

The Worship Root, which helps students explore what it means to have a lifestyle of worship:

Worship is more than just singing. It is a lifestyle. It’s how you go about your day, and it happens when you get a vivid glimpse of God, his power, and his majesty. In the Bible, anyone who has a close encounter with God can’t help but marvel at his glory. The angels, his messengers, are in a constant state of worship. We, too, can express a life of worship by encountering God on a daily basis.

KINGDOM

The Kingdom Root, which helps students understand how to live in the Kingdom of God every day:

When students embrace the Kingdom life, they begin to look at the small things differently. They realize the weight that their decisions carry, and they can start to live by God’s value system instead of the world’s tainted values.

OUTREACH

The Outreach Root, which helps students understand their God-given mission:

Jesus gave his followers one last command: to spread the good news of his death and resurrection—the gospel—to the whole world. When we become members of Christ’s body of believers, the story doesn’t end. That’s just the beginning! Now we get to join in a remarkable mission to care for the least, to love other people, and to share Jesus as Lord wherever we go.

SCOPE & SEQUENCE

SCOPE

We recommend that you start with the five lessons included in the *RESCUE ROOT*, then base your sequence on the needs of your group. Below is a description for each root included in *The Core*, as well as a suggested overall sequence for all roots. Additionally, the five lessons that make up each root are listed in the suggested order.

SUGGESTED SEQUENCE



1. RESCUE (5 Lessons)

We are slaves, held captive by terrible enemies: sin and death. In this fallen, corrupt, and shattered world, we need a rescuer—Jesus, our savior and redeemer. In fact, he's the only one who can save us from this mess that started way back with Adam and Eve. He gave his followers freedom from sin and its effects when he took them on at the cross. This freedom comes at a great cost, but it gives us a new life and reconnects us with God forever. And once we've been freed, we have the opportunity to join in the rescue mission for others.

Lessons/Passages:

1. The Rescue Intro Lesson (2 Corinthians 4:4; Luke 4:18–19; Matthew 28:18–20; Hebrews 12:1–3)
2. Sin: Why do we need grace? (Romans 3:10–24)
3. Sacrifice: Why did Jesus have to die? (John 3:1–21)
4. Adoption: How do I fit into God's family? (John 1:1–18 and Ephesians 2:1–10)
5. Salvation: How does being 'saved' make a difference in my life today? (John 9)



2. IDENTITY (5 Lessons)

It started with Adam and Eve. God created humans in his own image, unique in all creation. While God declared his other creations “good,” he identified humans as “very good.” Then sin entered the picture, and all people developed a warped version of their original identity, a sinner’s nature in need of major restoration. Christ died on the cross and rose again to offer us a new identity, even better than the first. He took on our sin and shame so we could take on his righteousness. He identifies with us so we can find our identity in him—a redeemed identity.

Lessons/Passages:

1. The Identity Intro Lesson (John 1:12, 15:15; Matthew 10:38–39; 1 Peter 2:9–12)
2. Image of God: Why do I matter? (Mark 5:24–34)
3. Spiritual Gifts: What are they and how should we use them? (1 Corinthians 12)
4. A Disciple’s Mission: How do you know God’s mission for your life? (Matthew 10:5–23)
5. Temptation: What do I do when I’m tempted? (Matthew 4:1–11)



3. COMMUNITY (5 Lessons)

We weren’t created to be alone. Our emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being depends on deep, loving relationships with other people. But the world builds walls between us, painfully isolating us from other human beings. That’s the beauty of the church. When we start following Jesus, we form a bond with the others who call him Lord. Do you ever feel outcast, lonely, inferior, ashamed, or disconnected? God has created a family for you. They are his people, and they will help you grow in another essential connection—with God.

Lessons/Passages:

1. The Community Intro Lesson (Matthew 5:13–16; 9:12–13, Mark 3:13–14, John 17:20–23)
2. The Church: What is it and why does it exist? (Ephesians 4:1–16)
3. Community Is a Need: Why do I need other Christ-followers? (Matthew 26:36–46)
4. A Church for the Broken: Do I have to have it “all together”? (John 18:12–27; 21:15–17)
5. Community Makes Disciples: What does it mean to follow Jesus? (John 15:1–17)



4. APOLOGETICS (5 Lessons)

The Bible encourages us to defend our faith: “Always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,” (1 Pet. 3:15). That’s the point of apologetics—to explain our hope in Christ to others. We shouldn’t do this in an overbearing way, as if we’re hitting people over the head. On the other hand, we shouldn’t detach ourselves from the rest of the world, too concerned with our own safety or offending someone that we never impact others. If we’re confident in the truth God has given us, then we won’t be ashamed to respectfully engage our culture in productive ways.

Lessons/Passages:

1. The Apologetics Intro Lesson (John 3:21; John 8:31–32; John 14:17; John 17:17–18)
2. Faith in Culture: How do I live out my faith when I’m surrounded by the faithless? (1 Corinthians 9:19–23)
3. The Resurrection: Why did Jesus have to rise again? (1 Corinthians 15:14–22)
4. Testimony: What is my faith story? (1 Thessalonians 2:1–13)
5. Unbending Truth: How do I know what’s true? (2 Timothy 3:10–17)



5. KINGDOM (5 Lessons)

Simply put, the kingdom of God is wherever God is King. It’s not a specific place on earth or in heaven. It’s everywhere God reigns and his subjects honor him as their ruler. When you follow Christ, you acknowledge him as the Lord of your life. You call him King. At that point you begin living in the kingdom of God. In his kingdom, human logic doesn’t always compute. The laws of living are different, based on God’s greater wisdom. Jesus tells us that “the first shall be last, and the last shall be first,” and “riches” are more than just “money.” In God’s kingdom the least are priceless, peace trumps power, and justice wins in the end.

Lessons/Passages:

1. The Kingdom Intro Lesson (Matthew 4:17; Mark 1:15; Matthew 5–7)
2. The Last Shall Be First: Why is it better to be last? (Matthew 19:30–20:16)
3. A Kingdom Worth Dying For: What should I do with persecution? (1 Peter 4:12–19)
4. Revenge vs. Forgiveness: Why aren’t grudges worth it? (Matthew 18:21–35)
5. Flashy vs. Meek: What’s so bad about showing off? (Luke 18:9–14)



6. OUTREACH (5 Lessons)

Before he returned to his Father in heaven, Jesus gave his followers one last command: to spread the good news of his death and resurrection—the gospel—to the whole world. That's a daunting task. But if we truly understand the joy we have as followers of Jesus, we'll realize that sharing this joy is the greatest act of love we can show another person. When we become members of Christ's body of believers, the story doesn't end. That's just the beginning! Now we get to join in a remarkable mission to care for the least, to love other people, and to share Jesus as Lord wherever we go.

Lessons/Passages:

1. The Outreach Intro Lesson (Luke 15; Luke 10:30–35; Mark 1:17)
2. Lost and Found: What does it mean to be spiritually lost? (Luke 7:36–50)
3. Burden for the Lost: Why share about Jesus? (Luke 15:1–10)
4. Spread the Word: How do I share Jesus with others? (Acts 3:1–16; 4:1–4)
5. Purpose vs Preference: How do I start wanting what God wants? (Luke 19:1–10)



7. KNOWLEDGE (5 Lessons)

God is enormous. He's too big, too awesome, and too complicated to wrap our minds around. Yet he wants us to know him. He wants a relationship with us, so he has revealed himself in a number of ways. Creation tells us about God. The world around us is covered in his fingerprints. The Bible tells the story of God's relationship with his people over the centuries. It also gives us names that describe him—Creator, Almighty, Holy One—and metaphors to help us connect with him—Father, Rock, Shepherd. He sent his Son, Jesus, to live on earth as fully God and fully man, "God with us." And he sent the Holy Spirit to comfort us and unite us to him. We will never know everything about God. But in order to become his disciples, we need to know some essential truths about the One we follow.

Lessons/Passages:

1. The Knowledge Intro Lesson (John 1:18, 3:16, and 14:7; Romans 1:20; Matthew 6:26; Acts 17:24–25)
2. Revealed: How do we know about God? (Acts 10:17–48)
3. The Hound of Heaven: How does God pursue his children? (Acts 9:1–22)
4. A Higher Justice: How do God's mercy and justice go together? (Matthew 20:1–16)
5. The Omni's: How big is the God we serve? (John 4:1–30)



8. WORSHIP (5 Lessons)

We sing because we worship. We pray because we worship. We dance because we worship. By themselves, these things are not all that special and can even be self-serving. But when they are done in response to God, they become worship played out in our lives. You see, worship is a lifestyle. It's how you go about your day, and it happens when you get a vivid glimpse of God, his power, and his majesty. In the Bible, anyone who has a close encounter with God can't help but marvel at his glory. The angels, his messengers, are in a constant state of worship. We, too, can express a life of worship by encountering God on a daily basis.

Lessons/Passages:

1. The Worship Intro Lesson (Matthew 22:37–40; Luke 5:4–9; Col 1:16; Hebrews 12:2, 13:15–16)
2. Beyond Singing: Is worship on Sunday enough? (Luke 10:38–42)
3. Giving: Do I have to give as a teenager? (Mark 12:41–44 and 2 Corinthians 9:12–15)
4. Prayer: Does it even make a difference? (Matthew 6:1–16)
5. Joy: Why should I worship when I'm hurting? (Acts 16:19–34)



WHAT'S INCLUDED

40 LESSONS / 32 SERMONS

- **FACILITATOR GUIDE** PDF and Word Versions
- **STUDENT GUIDE** PDF and Word Versions
- **WHAT THE BIBLE HAS TO SAY ABOUT IT** Ice Breakers to Begin Conversation
- **A SECOND LOOK** An Additional Illustration with Discussion Questions
- **LIVE IT OUT** An Experiential Activity to Reinforce the Lesson
- **APPLY IT** A Practical Application for the Week
- **THINK ABOUT IT** Challenging Quotes or Verses
- **ONLINE TEACHER MANAGEMENT*** Give your Volunteers Online Access to Digital Curriculum

** Included with your purchase of a HERO Membership*

VOLUNTEERS

- **FACILITATOR GUIDE** PDF and Word Versions
- **VOLUNTEER TIPS AND TRAINING** Advice for Lesson Facilitators
- **VOLUNTEER TRAINING VIDEOS*** 18 Youth Ministry Training Videos for Volunteers
- **STUDENT DISCIPLESHIP TRACKER*** Equip Volunteers to Create an Individualized Discipleship Plan for Every Student
- **ONLINE TEACHER MANAGEMENT*** Online Access to Digital Curriculum
- **ONLINE MESSAGE CENTER*** Update Volunteers via the Message Center
- **DIGITAL MINISTRY CALENDAR*** Share with Volunteers Your Digital Ministry Calendar

** Included with your purchase of a HERO Membership*

PARENTS

- **PARENT GUIDE** Lesson Overview and Scripture Covered for Every Series
- **QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK** Debrief Questions Designed for Parents
- **FAMILY ACTIVITY** Activity Designed for the Whole Family
- **HOW TO RUN A PARENT MEETING** Video Training for Youth Workers
- **STUDENT DISCIPLESHIP TRACKER** Partner with Parents to Create an Individualized Discipleship Plan for Every Student
- **DIGITAL MINISTRY CALENDAR** Share with Parents Your Digital Ministry Calendar

** Included with your purchase of a HERO Membership*

ANNUAL MINISTRY BLUEPRINT

- **GOSPEL THREAD** 8 Roots of Deep Discipleship
- **SCOPE AND SEQUENCE** Suggested Yearly Teaching Outline
- **DUAL ENVIRONMENT** Specific Instructions for Use in Small Group and Large

** Included with your purchase of a HERO Membership*

MEDIA

- **POWERPOINT SLIDES** Background and Title Slides
- **PROPRESENTER SLIDES** Background and Title Slides
- **PROMO ART** Sized for Instagram, Posters, and Web Banners
- **GOSPEL THREAD VIDEOS*** Animated Videos of the 8 Roots of Deep Discipleship
- **COUNTDOWN VIDEOS*** 20 Animated Countdown Videos
- **MOTION LOOPS*** 22 Animated Motion Loops
- **BUMPER VIDEOS*** 44 Animated Bumper Videos

** Included with your purchase of a HERO Membership*

TECHNOLOGY

- **ONLINE TEACHER MANAGEMENT*** Give your Volunteers Online Access to Digital Curriculum
- **ONLINE MESSAGE CENTER*** Update Volunteers via the Message Center
- **DIGITAL MINISTRY CALENDAR*** Share with Volunteers & Parents Your Digital Calendar

** Included with your purchase of a HERO Membership*

DOWNLOAD A SAMPLE

leadertreks.org/the-core-sample-lesson