

SUGGESTED TEACHING PLAN | WEEK 3

UNSHAKEABLE FOUNDATION

BROAD OVERVIEW

PREPARING FOR SUNDAY

- Sunday afternoon, begin spiritually preparing by prayerfully working through *Unshakeable* throughout the week; prepare to teach using the *Teacher Preparation Guide*.
- Prepare and collect any resources you will use Sunday morning.

SUNDAY MORNING | READY THE ROOM

- Be sure your class leadership team is ready to receive members and guests by at least 9:50am.
- Use nametags for members and guests and ensure everyone gets a copy of the *Unshakeable Personal Journal*.
- Prominently display the learning goal before anyone arrives.

THE GROUPLIFE HOUR

1. **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS** (< 5 MINUTES)
2. **DAILY READING HIGHLIGHTS & PRAYER** (10-15 MINUTES)
3. **READY THE LEARNERS** (<10 MINUTES)
4. **TEACH & APPLY THE LESSON** (25-30 MINUTES)
5. **GUIDE MEMBERS TO RESPOND** (5 MINUTES)
6. **FINAL REMINDERS & DISMISS CLASS** (3 MINUTES)

PREPARING FOR NEXT SUNDAY

- See the attached *Teacher Preparation Guide*.

PREPARING FOR SUNDAY

1. PREPARE SPIRITUALLY & PREPARE TO TEACH:

- Begin working through the *Teacher Preparation Guide* starting Sunday afternoon or very early in the week. You can find it on the last page of this document. You can also access this (and other) teacher resources at fcbryan.org/unshakeable.
- Prepare yourself spiritually by prayerfully working through the *Unshakeable Daily Readings* throughout the week.
- Teachers are always free to narrow the scope of the lesson by zeroing in on a single truth in the chapter they prayerfully believe best meets the needs of the class. Dig into the scriptures around that truth in *Unshakeable*, or supplement it with other passages the Lord draws you to in your preparation.

2. PREPARE RESOURCES:

- Ready a cleaned white board with white board markers or a large presentation sheet with permanent markers.
- Make a plan for displaying the learning goal on white board, presentation sheet, powerpoint slide, or handout.
- Have a method nailed down for collecting class prayer requests and distributing them to the class later that day.
- Gather enough index cards and pens for the closing activity.

SUNDAY MORNING

READY THE ROOM

- Be sure your class leadership team is ready to receive members and guests by at least 9:50am. Though members are in the habit of showing up later, guests typically arrive early so as not to draw attention to themselves.
- Warm the environment of the room with music
- Prominently display the learning goal before anyone arrives:

GOD IS WORTHY OF OUR ABSOLUTE TRUST AND TOTAL SURRENDER.

- Use nametags for members and guests. Be ready to gather information from class guests using Guest Information Cards or TouchPoint checkin.
- Ensure guests get a copy of the *Unshakeable Personal Journal* when they first arrive. This will give guests something to look at while waiting for members to arrive.
- Engage guests in warm conversation. Introduce them to others in the class and engage them in conversation if it appears welcome.

THE GROUPLIFE HOUR

1. **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS (< 5 MINUTES)**. There's a lot to cover. Select a few announcements that are most time sensitive or important. Leave the remaining announcements to class communications during the week.
2. **DAILY READING HIGHLIGHTS & PRAYER (10-15 MINUTES)**
 - a. **VARY THE WAY YOU PAIR YOUR GROUPINGS FROM PREVIOUS WEEKS.** You can group people in triads, by proximity, gender groups, care groups, the whole group, etc. Try not to do the same thing every week – variety can help some learners be more engaged.

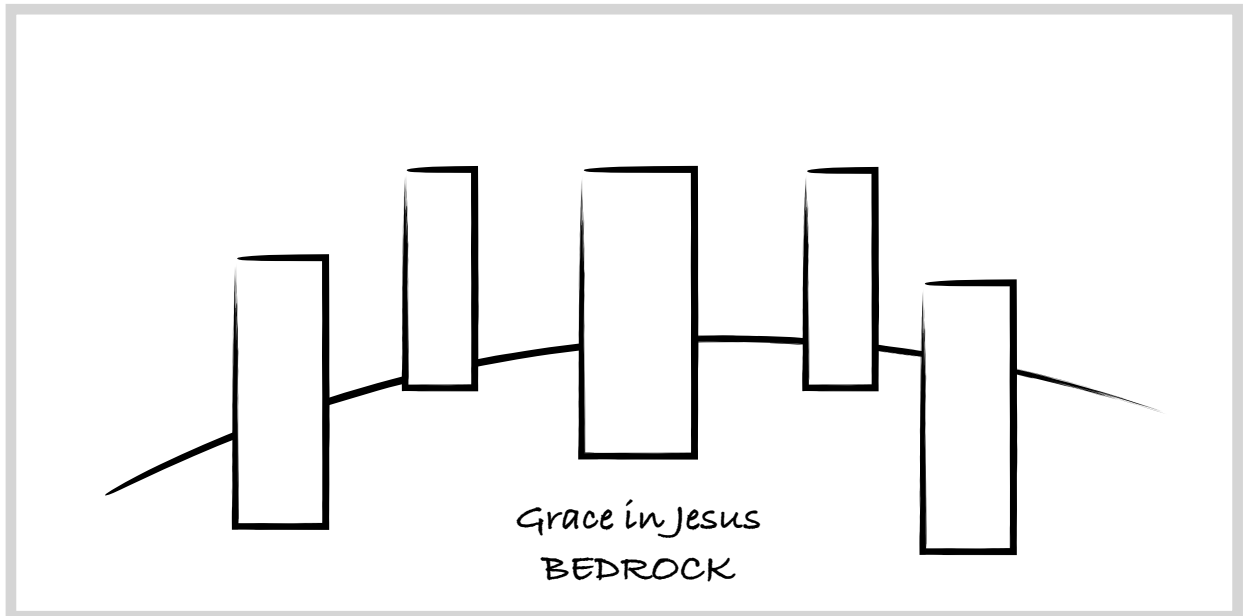
- b. **SHARE INSIGHTS.** Instruct your class: “Pair up with a few people around you. Browse through this week’s reading in your Personal Journal looking for anything you may have underlined for highlighted. Share something that stood out to you from the Daily Readings this week in your Unshakeable Personal Journal.”
- c. **SHARE PRAYER REQUESTS.** Share how the group can be praying **for you**. In the interest of time, arrange for prayers **for others** to be collected and shared with the entire class through email.
- d. **REPORT INSIGHTS TO CLASS.** Ask someone from a few groups to share with the class something from the Daily Readings that was shared in their group.
- e. **UNSHAKEABLE REMINDERS:** Encourage the class that in addition to GroupLife, to read the Daily Readings and attend our Worship Service every week. Urge them to bring their *Personal Journal* with them each week. Encourage them to “just read today’s reading” if they fall behind, and leave any catchup work to Day 6, if desired. Encourage them to not get bogged down on being perfectly consistent; Satan will surely use that against them.

3. **READY THE LEARNERS (<10 MINUTES)**

Engage the class member’s HEART & MIND. Debate, illustrate, brainstorm, share a surprising/humorous/controversial quote or question, or tell a personal story you will use to begin your lesson. Something that activates the mind or heart readies the member for learning better than jumping into facts.

- a. **Provoking Thought:** Ask any of the following questions to help the learner tune into the issue of trusting God...up to a certain point: “Up to what point will you trust God? What is an essential need or desire, that if unmet, would shake your trust in God? What are some reasons you have seen people struggle to trust God enough to entrust their life to God?”
- b. **Say,** let’s look at the parable of the 2 builders Jesus preached at 2 different locations found in Luke 6 and Matthew 7. Notice the similarities and differences in Jesus telling and retelling this story. The big idea of the parable is that there are two ways to living, either built on Jesus and His wisdom, or on our own. Last week we established that grace in Jesus is the

bedrock that lays beneath a life built on Jesus. (Draw and label bedrock “grace in Jesus” on a whiteboard or show on a Powerpoint slide). This week, we’re going to be looking at 5 vertical foundation supports that show that God is worthy of our absolute trust and total surrender.



- c. **PRAY:** Pause to pray, leading your class to be open hearted and attentive to God’s truth, how it applies to our lives, and how He wants us to respond. Ask for wisdom and understanding that doesn’t puff us up with pride. Ask for correction where there is error or misunderstanding. Ask for what we learn today to compel us to more deeply love God and all people with whom we come in contact.

4. **TEACH & APPLY THE LESSON** (25-30 MINUTES)

Engage the class member’s HEART, MIND, & HANDS. As you teach the facts of the lesson, you are teaching the mind, and answering the question, “What is true?”. We must also teach the heart, answering the question, “How should I value this truth?”. Finally, we must give attention to the hands, answering the question, “What must I do with this truth that I now value?”

- a. **GOD SPEAKS** (label the big central pillar “God Speaks”)
- 1) “Word” in Greek: “logos”. Logos essentially means a thought or message expressed.

- 2) **God's Word at creation**, *"Let their be..." (Gen. 1:3)*. If God didn't speak us into existence, we wouldn't be here. Nothing would. What was the thought or message expressed at creation?
- 3) **Jesus as the incarnate (in-the-flesh) Word** (John 1:1). Ask: What thought or message was expressed by the Word-made flesh? What we see in and hear from Jesus is God.
- 4) **The Bible as the written Word**. The Bible contains in writing the self-revelation of perfect God, thus it's message is likewise perfect (2 Timothy 3:16a).
- 5) **The alternative to God revealing Himself through Creation, The Bible, and Jesus**: *What if God didn't speak? What would be the basis of understanding God and the purpose of life? What are evidences in our culture and world that without God, we're doing little more than guessing?*
- 6) **God's Word has a unique, important function**. Read the paragraph toward the bottom of page 69: *"God's Word is true, but it's not only true. "For the word of God is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, even penetrating as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12). God's Word is alive and active. It interacts with us, and pokes around and biopsies the deepest parts of our hearts, minds, souls, and emotions. It's the only book that reads us. And along with an accurate diagnosis, God's Word provides the cure."*

b. GOD KNOWS everything (omniscience) (mark on the white board on one of the other pillars "God Knows").

- 1) **Option 1**: Before reading this scripture, as the group to listen for all of the things that God knows. Read Psalm 139. Identify and list on the whiteboard, tear sheet, or Powerpoint the things your group identifies from Psalm 139 that God knows.

a) **Ask**: *How important is it that God has complete knowledge if we are to entrust our lives to Him?*

2) **Option 2:** Write on the white board the following.

“God knows....”

...everything

...everything about you

...our actions

...what we say

...our hearts

...our thoughts

...our needs

Have the group read the following verses in random order. After each verse is read, have the group identify which of the options on the white board this verse teaches that God knows.

Ps. 147:5, Is. 40:28, Heb 4:13, 1 Cor 13:12, Jer 32:19, 1 Cor 4:5, Ps. 139:4, Matt 12:36, 1 Chron 28:9, Ps 44:21, Ps 139:1-2, Matt 12:25, Matt 6:8,32, Phil 4:19.

a) **Ask:** *How does an awareness of God’s omniscience change whether or not you would entrust your life to Him?*

c. GOD CARES (mark on the white board on one of the other pillars “God Cares”).

1) **Read:** Read aloud the entire paragraph toward the bottom of page 77 that begins with *“The entire Bible itself speaks to the fact that God cares...”*

2) Beyond our salvation, God demonstrates His Care in two primary ways.

a) His provision

b) His heart care

c) After reviewing with the class some of the scriptures that support each of those, **Ask:** *“What’s your spiritual love language? Meaning, what about God makes you feel most cared for—His provision for you or His ministry to your heart? Describe why.”*

- d. GOD'S WILLING (mark on the white board on one of the other pillars "God's Willing").
- 1) **Ask:** *Is God willing to answer my prayer and help me?*
 - 2) We only understand the wisdom of God to the extent that He has revealed it to us. But we are given insight into a "decision matrix" God seems to use to process our prayers.
 - 3) Using the daily reading beginning on page 81, write down what factors into whether God may decline a request:
 - a) God is good and wants good for us (Matt 7:11)
 - b) God wants to give us what we ask for (Matt 21:22)
 - c) God will answer our requests that glorify Jesus (John 14:13-14)
 - d) The extent of His sacrificial love that motivates His giving us good this is the cross (Rom 8:32)
 - e) He will answer what is asked if in His will (1 John 5:14-15).
Read from page 82 concerning His kingdom purposes: *"To properly understand the God's Willing pillar, we must look at it through the lens of God's kingdom. God's kingdom defines the scope of how God answers our prayers. God will answer our prayers as we wish, so long that they advance His kingdom agenda. Think about it, how could a holy God give us anything that would compromise the rule and reign of Jesus in our lives? He sees this bigger picture. And whether or not Jesus is your first love and first place in your life is more important than anything else. It is also unequivocally what is best for us. Among many other things, God has to factor in the condition of your heart and life."*
 - f) He will not answer requests that are motivated by self and other motivations not keeping Jesus in first place (James 4:3-4)
 - 4) **Ask:** Given the fact that God doesn't give us everything we ask for in light of His decision matrix, does that make you more and less willing to live with absolute trust and total surrender to God?

Listen for answers. Have someone read last paragraph on page 83: *“There are other reasons God may not answer our prayers that we don’t fully understand. He factors in His knowledge of all possibilities in the future. He has specific plans that He will bring about. He sees how your requests affect all of the other people that are praying and that He cares for. And with free will and sin in the world, He allows brokenness to run its course to the extent that is perfectly right and just. But know this, God is willing, and He has the heart of a perfect Father that is eager to meet your need and bless you in every way that is possible.”*

- e. GOD’S ABLE (mark on the white board the final pillar “God’s Able”).
 - a. Use Psalm 115:2-11 to highlight the omnipotence of God in contrast to the impotence of false gods
 - b. He’s able to redeem pain in the world (Romans 8:28), demonstrated most vividly in the cross and resurrection.

5. GUIDE MEMBERS TO RESPOND (5-10 minutes)

Engage the class member’s WORSHIP (“Knowing what I must do with this truth I now value, how will I respond to the Lord?”)

- a. With a pen and one side of an index card, have participants identify the “pillars” that are the weakest points of trust by ranking the 5 pillars from weakest to strongest.
- b. On the other side of the index card, have them write down specific areas of life most difficult to entrust to God.
- c. **Provide a moment of silence after giving the following instructions:** Deliberately “lay down” your index card upon your Bible, symbolizing that you are laying these issues upon the bedrock of grace in Jesus and the 5 foundation pillars making God worthy of absolute trust and total surrender. Close your eyes praying about each of these issues, surrendering each of them to God’s care, and committing your obedience regarding His will for you in these matters.

ANCHORING RESPONSES TO THE GOSPEL

Gospel encouragement: This does not need to be explicitly stated (though there may be times you elect to), but as you guide members to respond to these lessons, you may need to in one way or another remind the class that God never calls us to live “for” Him, apart from Him. When we abide in Christ by walking in the Spirit, He enables us to live far above what our self-righteousness observance of rules can accomplish. God is able to produce righteousness in us that brings Him glory when we walk by faith.

What does a gospel-centered response look like?

- 1) Pray to God about the response He wants you to make.
- 2) Confess that you’re unable to do this apart from Him.
- 3) Confess that since you have been set free from the power of sin, it no longer has power over you.
- 4) Ask for God’s supernatural help.
- 5) Walk in obedience with unbroken prayer and dependance on God.
- 6) If you slip, that indicates you have slipped back into self-reliance. Enter into God’s presence to receive grace and mercy, knowing you are welcome there based on the work of Jesus for you.
- 7) Begin again with dependance on God and confidence that He is eager to cleanse, restore, and abide with you as you begin again.

6. FINAL REMINDERS & DISMISS CLASS (3 MINUTES)

- a. **Prayer Exercise.** You may voice a heart-felt, surrendering prayer to close. Or ask a member that walk with Jesus to. Better yet, lead the class through a prayer prompt related to the lesson. Prompt them so THEY are praying, rather than listening to someone pray.

- b. Encourage the group, again, to utilize their *Personal Journal* throughout the week and to bring it with them weekly.
- c. Remind them of any opportunities to connect outside of class planned by the class or provided by the church.

UNSHAKEABLE

Teacher Preparation Guide

Teaching directly from the UNSHAKEABLE Personal Journal is **not** advised.
Use this Preparation Guide to develop your own Custom Teaching Plan.
All teacher resources online at FBCBRYAN.ORG/UNSHAKEABLE

1. Sunday afternoon, or very early in the week

1. Pray the Holy Spirit will guide your preparation without any hindrance.
2. Quickly read through all of this Week's Daily Readings in one sitting.
3. With a highlighter, mark the key Scripture passages in this Week's Lesson.

2. Monday - Friday

1. Every day, quickly re-read the highlighted Scripture passages.
2. Read through one Daily Reading per day, prayerfully working through it and completing the questions.
3. Throughout your preparation, make notes of any supporting scriptures, truths, illustrations, or questions the Lord brings to mind.

3. On or before Wednesday

1. Prayerfully read through this Week's Suggested Teaching Plan.

4. By Saturday

1. Skim all of this week's Daily Readings and Suggested Teaching Plan for any notes you have taken throughout the week.
2. Pray for the Holy Spirit's directing as you narrow your focus and finalize your preparation. You do not have to re-teach all the content of the Daily Readings; zero in on specific content or themes as He leads.
3. Use the Custom Teaching Plan document to develop a teaching plan for Sunday morning GroupLife based on how the Lord has led your devotional and preparation time.