

Doing Assessment for First Principles

March 3, 2019

Ames/Des Moines CityChurch

Today, we are going to focus on doing assessment (and development) for First Principles, regardless of how much (or little) work you have done in *The First Principles Series* booklets.

This Sunday's teaching was stimulated by:

- Jeff's series on Paul's Middle Letters (which are all about establishing roots in first principles).
- Michael's emphasis on "being rooted in the paradigm" of the way of Christ and His Apostles.
- Nate's work with our cluster to move forward with assessment and development, not just classes.
- Steve's guilt for having some cool tools that he has under-utilized.



PHILOSOPHY

NETWORK

TRAINING SYSTEM

RESOURCES

ABOUT US

STORE

BILD CLOUD

The First Principles Series

Engage every believer in the first principles of Christ.



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.

In other words, it is a tool for helping everyone in our church follow in the way of Christ and His Apostles and is a foundation for all aspects of Christian leadership in the home, church, and community. A path to Christian maturity (and a means of assessing Christian growth toward maturity).

Series I

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

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

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*

Portfolio Assessment

Collection (folio)

Presentation (portfolio)

Commendation

Development/Growth to Maturity

Portfolio Assessment of First Principles

Collection (folio)

Booklets with private notes

Portfolio Assessment of First Principles

Presentation (portfolio)

Work shared with a leader,
especially Apply the Principles and
Reshaping Your Life (and Projects)

Portfolio Assessment of First Principles

Commendation

BILD Institute LM-I Certificate

Portfolio Assessment of First Principles

Development/Growth to Maturity

“Rooted in the Paradigm!”



Discipleship I

Covers the beginnings of personal faith and lays a firm foundation for growth.

The First Principles Series I is the biblical core of the Discipleship I program. These four six-session booklets, together with the Life and Ministry Development Portfolio and BILD ePortfolio provide leaders and learners with the tools necessary to establish each participant in the basics of the faith.



Discipleship I / Leadership Mastery I

Assessment:

The First Principles Series Competencies
Oral Review of Concepts
Becoming Established Assessment Tool



_____ **Completed *The First Principles Series I* Booklets.**

_____ 1. *Becoming a Disciple*

First Principles of the Faith

- Summarized the essence of the gospel (kerygma) and built it into his/her testimony.
- Made a clear commitment to build his/her life on the first principles of the faith.
- Developed an understanding of what it means to renew one's mind, unleashing the work of the Spirit in his/her life.
- Learned to begin to think in principles rather than rules and laws.



ORAL REVIEW

Twenty Concepts of The First Principles Series I

Book 1:

___ **1. The Gospel.** The essence of the gospel can be summarized in a simple formula, referred to in the New Testament Church as The Proclamation (Kerygma). Its essence: Jesus was prophesied in the Old Testament; was born of the Seed of David by the Holy Spirit; lived a perfect life marked by good deeds; was crucified on the cross; was buried and rose again to life on the 3rd day, according to the Scriptures; appeared to over 500 and ascended to heaven, with the promise to return to earth on the great day of judgment; everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins and will become part of His kingdom when He returns; the rest will be judged. Acts 1:44–48



Becoming Established Assessment

Doing Well A Slight Problem A Major Problem

Comments

An early set of letters:

Is he sound in his understanding of the gospel, or is there evidence that he is drifting in any way toward a distorted or different gospel? Is he in danger, after "having begun by the Spirit" of now being "perfected by the flesh?" (Galatians)

Doing Assessment for First Principles

Quick and dirty version!

THE FIRST PRINCIPLES

The First Principles Series is a set of 13, six-session Bible study guides for use with small groups plus a leader's guide. Rather than the typical fill-in-the-blank approach, the series employs a highly effective study method using readings, personal reflection, group interaction, and projects. Teaching the core principles of Christ and His Apostles, the series systematically leads participants in firmly establishing their faith and on to deeper commitment.

SERIES ONE covers the beginnings of personal faith and carefully lays a firm foundation for growth. Both new and seasoned believers will benefit from its clear teaching.

SERIES TWO presents the biblical wisdom necessary for a fruitful life work, marriage, and family.

SERIES THREE initiates the believer into an ordered study of the Bible. The series teaches the essential skills for being a lifelong student of the Word of God, while revisiting core principles of four New Testament books.

TEACHING THE FIRST PRINCIPLES is a 6-session guide, designed to help leaders understand this new approach and method and to help them develop the skill set necessary to help believers and the church think biblically.

The First Principles Series is written by Jeff Reed, President and CEO of BILD International. The series is the culmination of decades of local church ministry and training leaders worldwide. BILD International also produces extensive, in-depth materials for training leaders in the local church context.





Assessment [with elements from each]:

The First Principles Series Competencies
[Assessment topics and sub-topics]

Oral Review of Concepts
[Assessment context]

Becoming Established Assessment Tool
[Assessment style]

Doing Assessment for First Principles

Assessment Guide (with ratings)

Assessment Guide (w/o ratings)

Project Assessment (with pulldowns)

Using the First Principles Assessment Guide

Memory Verses for *The First Principles Series*

THE FIRST PRINCIPLES (Series 1)

ASSESSMENT GUIDE

	<u>Doing Well</u>	<u>Minor Problem</u>	<u>Major Problem</u>	<u>Comments/Evidence/Goals</u>
Becoming a Disciple	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
• The gospel message	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
• Baptism	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
• The first principles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
• Renewing our minds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
• Lifestyle of a disciple	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

FIRST PRINCIPLES (Series 1)

ASSESSMENT GUIDE

Comments/Evidence/Goals

Becoming a Disciple

- The gospel message
- Baptism
- The first principles
- Renewing our minds
- Lifestyle of a disciple

Name _____

Mentor's Name _____

Training Dates _____

Location _____

Assessment Date _____

First Principles, Series 1, Book 1 Becoming a Disciple: First Principles of the Faith

Describe evidence that demonstrates accomplishment of course goals.

1. Summarized the essence of the gospel (kerygma) and built it into your testimony.
 - They have summarized in statement form the essence of the gospel either orally or in written form.
 - Observed testimony personally to leader assessing them.
 - Observed testimony in public ministry setting.
 - Observed testimony given by someone else who claims to have learned it from the leader.
 - Received testimony in writing.
 - Received email articulating the testimony.

Using *The First Principles* Assessment Guide

This is a very different manner of using the First Principles. The First Principles assessment tool takes the form of some of the other assessment tools that we use in our life and ministry development portfolios. Here is a brief explanation of how to use this tool.

Class discussions are not intended to be "end" of your development regarding first principles. Rather, they are to be things that stimulate and inform other developmental processes and relationships as well. Using the class to help equip your Community Group leaders and other mentors is what makes it truly church-based, not school-based.

Begin by identifying who in your life can help you evaluate yourself and support you as you progress with regard to first principles. This should probably be your spouse if you are married. It should also be one of the leaders of your Community Group or perhaps a pastor or elder in the church. Complete this form by yourself and have others complete it about you. Then be ready to talk about what we are learning about ourselves and how we can maximize the developmental potential of our mentoring relationships in order to become more Christ-like.

The goal is not to use the assessment tool in a rigid form. For instance, you may not be able to make a determination on some area. Or you may not know whether something is a minor problem or a major problem. The basic idea is to help you think in terms of evidence with regard to the big ideas of the First Principles booklets. Notice that you have a line for each booklet, but also for each session of each booklet. Some may want to start with assessment at the booklet-level and work down and others may want to start at the session-level and work up. If you are not comfortable with the ratings, you may want to focus on the comments section and identify evidence of accomplishment or problems. This column (or the back of the sheet) may be the most valuable part of the form because it also help you list your goals for further development. It may help to approach each line by using the following sentence: "When it comes to my life currently being characterized by an appropriate commitment to [item from assessment form], I am [doing well, have a minor problem, have a major problem]."

Now, let me comment on the ratings. It is very subjective whether you are "doing well," "have a minor problem," or "have a major problem." For instance, you may be doing well, but you know that you need to do so much better for a particular reason. Thus, you should still have goals, even though you are doing well. In many cases, we will be marking "have a minor problem" because we are focusing on areas where we need to develop. Yet, even though we are focusing on development, we can also experience joy in what we have accomplished. Many of us tend to focus only on what needs work and we never rejoice about what we are doing well. Use this form as a developmental tool, but also as an indicator of success.

Please print off several copies of this form, so that you can use it for yourself and give it to others to do for you. Also, keep some extra copies so that you can use it again later to measure your progress and keep a journal of your journey.

I hope that you will take advantage of this special opportunity to focus on the development of your life according to first principles. Not only does it help you give attention to important foundational things in your life, it also helps you to do so in a comprehensive and biblical manner. Our First Principles booklets are designed with the emphasis on the New Testament teaching in mind. It isn't the only way to do it, but it is a good one. Further, taking advantage of this opportunity will help you to engage at ORC in a manner that is really what the church is all about.

-- Steve

FIRST PRINCIPLES (Series 1)

MEMORY VERSES

Becoming a Disciple

- The gospel message. Acts 10:36. “You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.”
- Baptism. Matthew 28:18-20. “. . . All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
- The first principles. Colossians 2:8. “See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather on Christ.”
- Renewing our minds. Romans 12:1-2. “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”
- Lifestyle of a disciple. Romans 14:10. “You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God’s judgment seat.”

Doing Assessment for First Principles

Assessment Guide (with ratings)

Assessment Guide (w/o ratings)

Project Assessment (with pulldowns)

Using the First Principles Assessment Guide

Memory Verses for *The First Principles Series*

Doing Assessment for First Principles

- What is the value of using these tools?
- How could you benefit from them?
- How could people in your church benefit from them?
- Who should use them (and for whom)?

- Use the First Principles Assessment Guide to evaluate yourself (or someone in your family/church).

Doing Assessment for First Principles

- What didn't you like about this exercise (and/or the assessment tools)?
- What was challenging?
- What value did you find?
- What potential for your church do you envision?

Doing Assessment for First Principles

- What didn't you like about this exercise (and/or the assessment tools)?
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- What potential for your church do you envision?

Continue this discussion in your house churches (and clusters).