

# FOUNDATIONS<sup>1</sup>

## Outreach

[John Stott, \*Basic Christianity\*](#) – Details the essential claims of Christianity and the salvation we as Christians claim we both need and can find in Christ; a valuable resource for those exploring Christianity to use alongside reading through one of the Biblical gospel accounts, such as Mark.

## The Gospel

[Greg Gilbert, \*What is the Gospel?\*](#) – Surveys the basics of the Gospel—the good news about how we can be saved due to what Jesus has done through his cross and resurrection; valuable for both outreach as well as gaining personal clarity on the gospel. We recommend at least working through chapters 2-5.

## Spiritual Disciplines

[Dave Mathis, \*Habits of Grace: Enjoying Jesus through the Spiritual Disciplines\*](#) – Surveys Christian habits through which we can enjoy Jesus more and continue to experience God’s transforming grace; a [free PDF](#) of this book is available along with a [study guide booklet \(free PDF\)](#) and [videos](#).

## Introduction to the Bible

[John Stott, \*Understanding the Bible\*](#) – An introduction to the Bible, how to understand it, and its role in the Christian life. (Note: Not all will be comfortable with Stott’s approach to the opening chapters of Genesis.)

## The Church

[Mark Dever, \*What is a Healthy Church?\*](#) – Discusses important characteristics of a healthy church to help us properly orient our thinking about church—what it is, why it exists, what it should look like, and how we ought to relate to it.

## Missions & Evangelism

[Mark Dever, \*The Gospel and Personal Evangelism\*](#) – An introduction to the Gospel and the “what, whys, and hows” of sharing it with nonbelievers.

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<sup>1</sup> Disclaimer: In composing this list, the reader should be aware that South City Church does not endorsing all of the material contained in the resources listed. South City Church entrusts its members to engage these resources with diligence, discernment, and caution and to bring any questions or concerns sparked by such reading into conversation with their elders.

## **Christian Doctrine**

[Wayne Grudem, \*Christian Beliefs: Twenty Basics Every Christian Should Know\*](#) – An introduction to Christian doctrine; provides a systematic survey of Bible’s teaching on twenty of its most important subjects.

## **The Bible’s Overarching Storyline (Putting the Bible Together)**

[Vaughan Roberts, \*God’s Big Picture: Tracing the Storyline of the Bible\*](#) – Shows how the whole Bible fits together around Jesus and the Gospel; this topic is especially helpful in showing us how to understand all of scripture—including the Old Testament—in light of its center in Jesus and the Gospel.<sup>2</sup>

## **Corporate Worship**

[Mike Cospers, \*Rhythms of Grace: How the Church’s Worship Tells the Story of the Gospel\*](#) – Helps us to think well about what the church does when it gathers to worship together. Although written primarily for those who plan and lead worship, this material will equip us to become more informed and intentional participants in our church’s assembled worship. We recommend reading at least chapters 5, 6, and 8.

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<sup>2</sup> Another helpful book on this subject worth reading is [Graeme Goldsworthy, \*The Gospel and Kingdom\*](#).