***THE FIRST PRINCIPLES* (Series 1) ASSESSMENT GUIDE**

Doing Minor Major

Well Problem Problem Comments/Evidence/Goals

Becoming a Disciple    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* The gospel message    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Baptism    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* The first principles    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Renewing our minds    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Lifestyle of a disciple    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Belonging to a Family of Families    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* The church as the centerpiece of Christ’s plan    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* The church as a family of families    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Living within a believing family    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Living within a family of families    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Setting life priorities    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Participating in the Mission of the Church    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Participating in the mission worldwide    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Participating in the mission at home    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Cultivating our opportunities    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Defending our faith    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Using our households as mission centers    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cultivating Habits of the Heart    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Christ dwelling in our hearts    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Cultivating habits in our individual lives    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Cultivating habits in our families    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Cultivating habits in our church family    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Cultivating habits in our lifework    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***THE FIRST PRINCIPLES* (Series 2) ASSESSMENT GUIDE**

Doing Minor Major

Well Problem Problem Comments/Evidence/Goals

Enjoying Your Relationship    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Cultural confusion—marriage redefined    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* God’s basic design for marriage    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Spirit of a marriage    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Marriage and community life    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Building intergenerational commitment    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Passing on Your Beliefs    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Cultural breakdown of family life    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* God’s basic design for family life    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Shaping a young life    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* The family in community life    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Managing our households    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Envisioning Fruitful LifeWork    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Created for good works    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Masters, slaves, and contemporary work    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* A disciplined work ethic    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Becoming cheerful givers    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* A single-minded focus on our lifework    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Building for Future Generations    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Investments, retirement, personal success    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Investing in the local church    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Investing in the progress of the gospel    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Investing for eternity    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Laying hold of Christ    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Belonging to a Family of Families \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* The church as the centerpiece of Christ’s plan \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* The church as a family of families \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Living within a believing family \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Living within a family of families \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Setting life priorities \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Participating in the Mission of the Church \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Participating in the mission worldwide \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Participating in the mission at home \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Cultivating our opportunities \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Defending our faith \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Using our households as mission centers \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cultivating Habits of the Heart \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Christ dwelling in our hearts \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Cultivating habits in our individual lives \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Cultivating habits in our families \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Cultivating habits in our church family \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Cultivating habits in our lifework \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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.

2. Made a clear commitment to build your life on the first principles of the faith.

* Been baptized.
* Declared personally to the leader assessing them.
* Declared in a public ministry setting.
* Put statement in writing.
* Wrote email making declaration.
* Demonstrated by making a major change in a foundational area of life.
* They are in the process of studying the first principles.

3. Developed an understanding of what it means to renew your mind, unleashing the work of the Spirit in your life.

* Do they have the biblical idea?
* Do they have a strategy?
* Do they have some examples?
* Articulated a specific area in which they are applying renewal of their minds.
* Clearly explained the concept in an abstract form (in writing or oral).
* Clearly explained the concept in a ministry setting.
* Pointed to a specific testimony of work of the Spirit related to renewal of mind.

4. Learned to begin to think in principles rather than rules and laws.

* Clearly articulated the difference between principles and rules in a private conversation.
* Clearly articulated the difference between principles and rules in a public ministry setting.
* Gives specific examples of how their life is realigned according to principles.
* Identifies specific examples of how their life has been oriented by rules.
* Understands the argument of Romans 14 and can explain why we are not to live our lives by rules.
* Gives illustration in church and believers in culture about how they live by rules rather than Romans 14.
* Identifies examples from their life.

Other significant observations and/or things that need further attention:

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 being 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 patter 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.”

Belonging to a Family of Families

* The church as the centerpiece of Christ’s plan. Acts 13:2-3. “While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.”
* The church as a family of families. Titus 3:8. “This is a trustworthy saying and I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.”
* Living within a believing family. Colossians 4:2-6. “Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you know how to answer everyone.”
* Living within a family of families. 1 Peter 3:8. “Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.”
* Setting life priorities. Acts 10:24, 27. “The following day he [Peter] arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. . . . Talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people.”

Participating in the Mission of the Church

* Participating in the mission worldwide. Ephesians 3:10-11. “His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
* Participating in the mission at home. 1Timothy 3:14-16. “Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God’s household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.”
* Cultivating our opportunities. Ephesians 5:21, et al. “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. . . . Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her . . . Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. . . . Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. . . . Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. . . . And masters, treat your slaves in the same way.”
* Defending our faith. Titus 2:5, 8, 10. “. . . so that no one ill malign the word of God . . . so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us . . . so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.”
* Using our households as mission centers. Ephesians 5:15-16. “Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.”

Cultivating Habits of the Heart

* Christ dwelling in our hearts. Ephesians 3:16-19. “I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”
* Cultivating habits in our individual lives. Colossians 3:5, 12, 14. “Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. . . . Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. . . . And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”
* Cultivating habits in our families. Ephesians 6:4. “Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”
* Cultivating habits in our church family. Hebrews 10:24-25. “Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approached.”
* Cultivating habits in our lifework. 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12. “Now about brotherly love we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. And in fact, you do love all the brothers throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers, to do so more and more. Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life my win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.”