

InterVarsity's Doctrinal Basis Debrief Guide

Instructions: These debrief guides have been provided to summarize the objectives, takeaways, and opportunities for discussion as you equip and develop your CSM/Area. The guide is designed to provide options instead of a prescriptive step-by-step for each course. Each of the Reflection Questions are taken directly from the course, while the Discipleship Moments provide opportunities for practical ministry development based on the course content.

Here are some decisions you might make as you determine how to use it with CSMs.

- **Go through the course together, or assign it as a pre-course.** The content is short enough that you can read it together and discuss it section by section. Or, you can also ask staff to do the whole course on their own, and then just discuss the content together when you meet.
- **Use it singly or as a group.** You can use this course in 1:1 meetings with individual staff, or use it as a team-building activity with a group of staff in an area meeting.
- **Cover it all in one session, or multiple sessions.**
 - If discussing the whole course together in **one session**, you might consider selecting just 3-4 Reflection Questions and one Discipleship Moment to work on together, depending on the time available. You could also ask the CSM(s) which sections are most intriguing or most challenging and tailor your time to their interests, or you might identify sections you think would be most helpful, depending on their current strengths and skills gaps.
 - If you want to spend **several sessions** discussing the course and working through it in-depth with your CSM(s), consider doing it in three sessions. *Session 1* covering the Introduction and tenets 1-3; *Session 2* reviewing the Introduction and covering tenets 4-6; *Session 3* covering tenets 7-9 and the Story of the Good News. Use the provided Reflection/Discussion Questions and Discipleship Moments ideas, or create your own.

Course: InterVarsity's Doctrinal Basis

Estimated Course Time: 30 minutes

The goal of this course is to grow staff understanding and appreciation of InterVarsity's core theological beliefs and their implications for our faith and ministry.

Learning Objectives

- Explore and explain the core beliefs that anchor our partnership with colleagues and the church
- Illustrate how InterVarsity's doctrinal affirmations energize and shape our work in campus ministry.
- Inspire staff with the beauty of the biblical truths our doctrinal basis expresses.

Prerequisite: The [Orientation to Theology](#) course in Workday is recommended, but not required. It will prepare your supervisee by:

- Demonstrating how engaging with God through theological reflection can be a worshipful experience
- Illustrating how really does theology shape spirituality and ministry
- Providing shared theological vocabulary with colleagues

Course Takeaways

- Our Doctrinal Basis paints a beautiful theological landscape that can give us powerful new perspectives on God's character and purposes.
- Our Doctrinal Basis anchors us to a common center around which we coordinate our shared life and ministry; it provides unity without forcing uniformity.
- Our Doctrinal Basis explains why we do what we do as a missional organization, and it actually inspires and energizes our ministry in fresh, innovative, contextualized ways.
- Our Doctrinal Basis traces the sweeping story of salvation history from beginning to end and helps us locate ourselves within that unfolding story.

Discussion Plan

You may choose to go through the whole course at one meeting.

	Reflection & Discussion Questions	Discipleship Moments
Before beginning the course	- Word association: When you hear the word "theology," what other words come to mind? Why? - On a scale of 1-10, how familiar are you with InterVarsity's Doctrinal Basis? - Have you ever discussed InterVarsity's Doctrinal Basis with other staff? Have you ever used it in ministry with students?	Take a few minutes to pray together for hearts of openness, curiosity, and anticipation as you engage with the material in the course.
Introduction section	- Consider the descriptions of doctrine as "beautiful, anchoring, and energizing." Which one of those words do you gravitate toward the most, and which one feels most foreign to you? Why? - Are there any questions about how doctrine / theology is functioning in beautiful, anchoring, or energizing ways in Philippians 2?	Can you think of a time that some theological insight or commitment did the following? - Called forth a response in you or others because of its beauty? - Acted as an anchor for unity with others? - Energized you or others to engage in some form of ministry?
Tenets section	Use the following questions to reflect on the tenets. - What I find interesting in the teaching here is ... - What I find challenging is ... - What I want to remember is ... - What I want to discuss is ____ because ...	If doing all the tenets in one sitting with a group: - Put a large poster board on the wall, and divide it into 2 columns, 5 rows. - Number the cells 1-9 for the nine tenets of our Doctrinal Basis. - Give participants four colors of sticky notes, one for each of the four questions to the left. - Give them 10-15 mins to write on their notes, and to post them in the appropriate space on the poster board. - Spend some time as a group observing and discussing what is revealed.
Story of the Good News section	- Spend five minutes on the exercise in the course: trying to draw and title a "fifth circle" for The Big Story that represents tenet 8. - What was helpful about that exercise? What was difficult? - What are one or two concrete next steps you'd like to take to continue to grow theologically? Who could help you with that?	- Share and discuss your "fifth circles." - Share and discuss your possible next steps, and maybe commit to doing one together.

Possible Next Steps

- Make time to spend with God processing what you've explored in the tenets.
- Select a tenet and read two books about it as an annual Development Goal.
- Use the resources listed on the Quicksheet to do further learning about selected tenets.
- Use the course to create a brief presentation about InterVarsity's Doctrinal Basis for your student leaders.