

New Member

Bible Study



WELCOME to the family!

Dear Brother or Sister in Christ,

We are excited that you desire to become a member of First Baptist Church! We are looking forward to getting to know you better as we seek to glorify our God the best we can.

This study was written for the purpose of helping you to understand the basic doctrines that we believe and to learn the purpose of First Baptist Church. It is not meant to be difficult or comprehensive. Rather, its purpose is to begin laying the foundation for your future walk with God.

If you are a mature Christian who is joining us from another body of believers, we hope that you will find this study a fresh review of what you have learned. If you are a new believer, our prayer is that this study will be the first step in helping you to become a true follower of Jesus Christ.

First Baptist Church exists to glorify God by making disciples. We hope that you will learn much from this booklet that will help you get even more of a desire to study God's Word.

May God bless you as you work toward a more full knowledge of Him!

Your Family at First Baptist Church

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Table of Contents

SECTION 1 – What is First Baptist Church all about? 3

SECTION 2 – Becoming a Disciple of Jesus Christ 8

SECTION 3 – The Bible 12

SECTION 4 – Bible Doctrines 19

SECTION 5 – The Church 26

SECTION 6 – Your Duties as a Christian..... 29

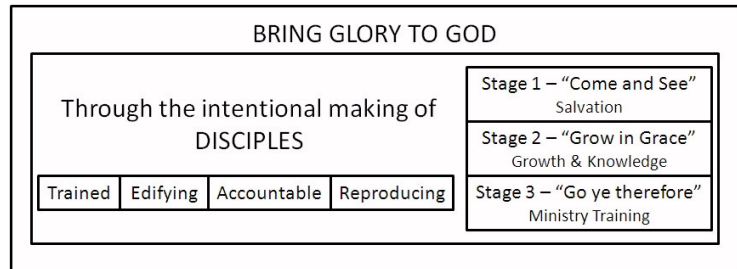
SECTION 7 – Prayer..... 33

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

I Peter 3:15

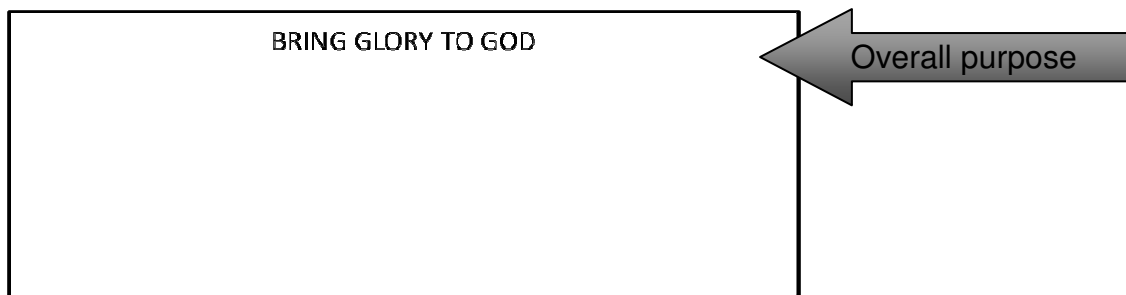
SECTION 1 – What is First Baptist Church all about?

The practical mission of First Baptist Church is to bring glory to God through the intentional making of trained, edifying, accountable and reproducing disciples of Jesus Christ.



This is our practical mission statement. But, just what does it mean and where do we get it? Let’s look at it one section at a time.

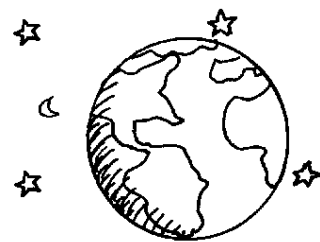
“Bring glory to God” – God’s overall purpose in creation



Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.
(Revelation 4:11)

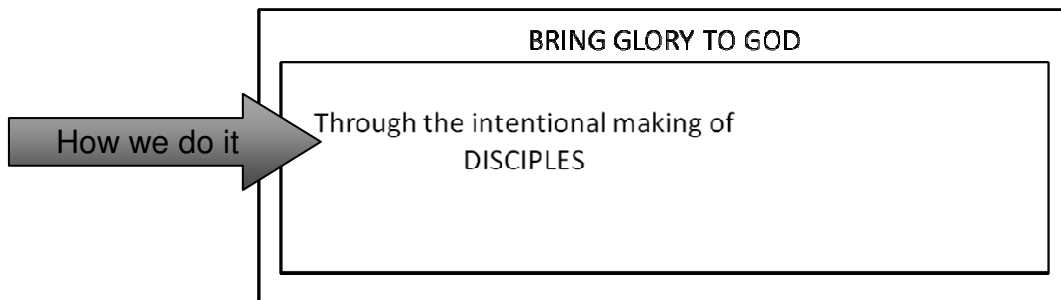
What is the purpose of creation? _____

If the whole creation was designed to give God glory, then this obviously must be the purpose of our church. Therefore, our overall goal is to “bring glory to God”.



But, how are we best going to accomplish this task?

“Through the intentional making of disciples”



Jesus gave us specific instructions right before He left the earth:

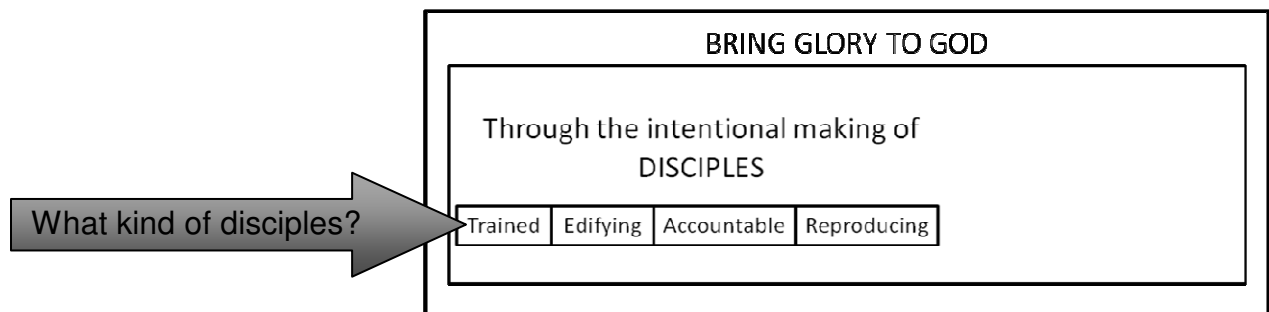
Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.
(Matthew 28:19-20)

The first word translated in these verses as “teach” is from the Greek word *matheteuo*, which means “to become a pupil” or “disciple”. It refers to much more than just telling someone what they should know about Jesus. The idea is to convince them to become true followers of Him in every way.

Matheteuo
*To become a pupil;
to enroll as a
scholar; to disciple*

What does it mean to “teach all nations”? _____

“Who are trained, edifying, accountable, and reproducing”



And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ;

(Ephesians 4:11-12)



Trained – Part of Jesus’ final command to His disciples was to teach others to “observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you”. As we teach others truths about God and how to do the ministry, the saints are “perfected” and God’s work can be expanded and reproduced.

The term “perfecting” in Ephesians 4:12 means “completely prepare”. When we train others, we are preparing them for the ministry.

Jesus, as our example, spent most of His ministry with His twelve disciples, training them to be able to carry on the ministry after He left.

Edifying – To edify means to “build up”. We edify each other by helping through difficult times and encouraging each other to obey God.

*“A loving and supportive environment builds emotional equity that acts as a cushion during the bumps and turbulence of ministry”
-Bill Hull*

Accountable – Most people find it easier to do what is right when someone is watching them. We believe in holding each other accountable for serving God. Occasionally the church may have to discipline a member for public sin, but the purpose is always restoration of the fallen one.

*Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.
(Galatians 6:1)*

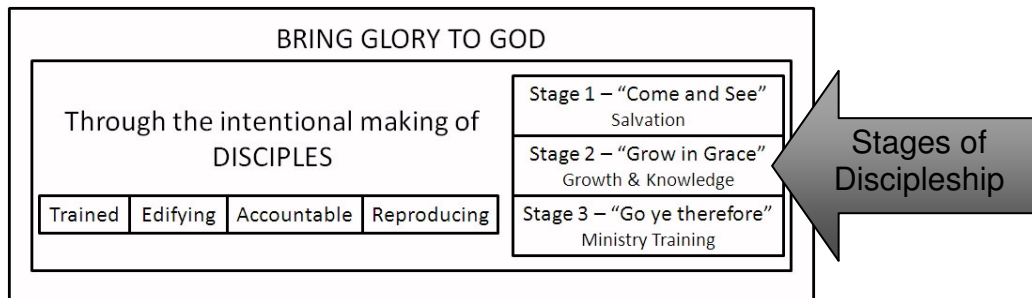
Reproducing – We know that a disciple is successfully made when he can bring others to Christ and train them in the ministry.

How did Jesus model the need for training others? _____

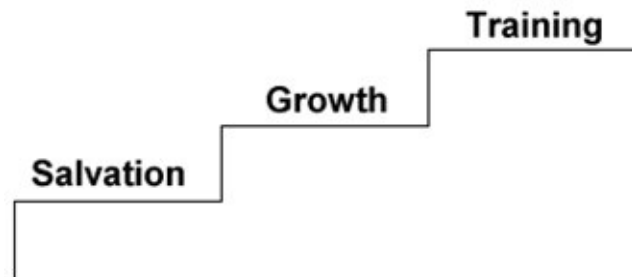
What does it mean to “edify”? _____

What are some ways we can edify others? _____

The stages of discipleship



Becoming a reproducing disciple of Jesus Christ is actually a three-step process. Let’s look at these steps in a little more detail. These steps are referred to as “stages” in our graph.

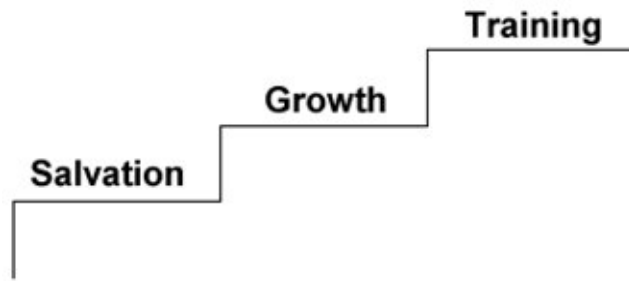


Stage 1 – “Come and See” (Salvation)

*Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, **Come and see.***

(John 1:45-46)

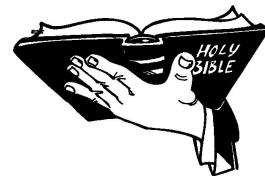
A person who is at stage 1 is contemplating whether or not to take the first step in becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ. This step is most important and will be discussed more fully in the next section.



Stage 2 – “Grow in Grace” (Growth)

*But **grow in grace**, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ...*
(II Peter 3:18)

After salvation, spiritual growth is necessary along with further knowledge of the Bible. This is so important because many erroneous teachings are available. If you do not know what to believe, you can be led to believe anything.



Stage 3 – “Go ye therefore” (Training)

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

(Matthew 28:19)



Ultimately, we endeavor to train disciples so they are ready to go out and make other disciples. Stage 3 is focused upon providing training in specific areas to help disciples as they go out and minister to others.

A disciple of Jesus Christ will never grow out of either the “growth” or “training” stages. There is always more to learn about God and how to serve Him!

What is the first step in becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ? _____

Why is it important to grow in knowledge? _____

In your own words, describe the purpose of First Baptist Church:

Congratulations!

You have made it through the first section of our New Member Bible study. We hope you now have a clear understanding of the purpose of First Baptist Church.

The remainder of this study is aimed at helping you to develop further as a disciple of Jesus Christ.



SECTION 2 – Becoming a Disciple of Jesus Christ

Making disciples means that when a person puts his trust in Jesus Christ, we don't want to leave him alone to try to figure out how to live like a Christian. Our goal is to help him grow to the point where he can bring others to the Lord and train them to live for Him.



The first step in becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ is to become “saved”. You may be familiar with this term, or it may be new to you. What does it mean to be saved? Saved from what? We need to understand a few things first about the relationship of God and man.

By way of review, what is the ultimate purpose of all of Creation? _____

Do you think that man has fulfilled this purpose? _____ This verse indicates that man has really made a mess out of his life:

*For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.
(Romans 3:23)*

Who has sinned? _____

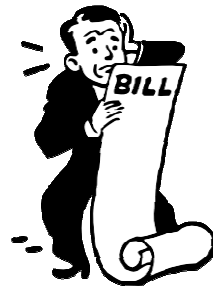


Sin, by the way, is defined as “missing the mark”. For example, an archer may get close to the bull’s eye, but if he misses it, he has “sinned”. He has not reached perfection. God requires perfection, but man has missed the mark. That’s what Romans 3:23 means by “...come short of the glory of God”.

God, because He is righteous and holy, can't just sit by without judging the sin of man.

Read Romans 6:23

“Wages” means payment. When you go to work, you receive wages. You also receive wages from your sin. However, the wages you receive from sin turns out to be a bill – you are required to pay for the sins that you have done.



What are the wages of sin? _____

Sin requires death. This death includes physical death, but it goes much beyond that. It ultimately refers to spiritual death – separation from God in Hell, which is a place of torment. This is what we deserve.

BUT, according to Romans 6:23, God gives a gift. What is it? _____

Here's a question to consider – If God requires death as a payment for sin, how can He overlook it and offer life?

Read Romans 5:8



What did Jesus do for us?

God has sentenced you to eternal death because of your sin. However, Jesus experienced death in your place. God was willing to accept Jesus' death instead of yours. Therefore, you can be "saved" from the punishment for sin.

Now, here's another question - does this mean that everyone will escape Hell and be in Heaven?

Read John 3:16

What does one have to do have everlasting life?

To believe is to trust. Belief in Jesus is trusting that He is the Son of God and can "save" you from the punishment that you deserve because of your sin. Belief in Jesus is understanding that there is no other possible way for God to remove the debt for your sin.

How would you define "believe"?

Read I John 5:13

Is it possible to know that you are saved? _____

If you have made the decision to trust in Jesus Christ alone in order to receive God's forgiveness for your sins, you have been "saved". Many people struggle, though, with wondering whether they can become "unsaved". Let's see what the Bible has to say about this.

*And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.
(Ephesians 4:30)*

When you become saved, you are "sealed" by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. He puts His stamp on you and claims you as His own.

*And I will pray the Father,
and he shall give you
another Comforter, that
he may abide with you
for ever; Even the Spirit
of truth; whom the world
cannot receive, because
it seeth him not, neither
knoweth him: but ye
know him; for he dwelleth
with you, and shall be in
you. I will not leave you
comfortless: I will come
to you.*

(John 14:16-18)

For how long are you sealed? _____

Do you have the Holy Spirit in you now? _____

Why or why not? _____



Read John 10:28-29

Who can pluck you out of God's hand? _____

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, **Who are kept by the power of God** through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

(1 Peter 1:3-5)



By whose power are you kept saved?

If it is God's power that saved you and God's power that keeps you saved, who is able to pull you away from Him?

No one is greater than God, who holds you in His hand. Therefore, you cannot become "unsaved". This truth is what we commonly call "eternal security" – that once saved, you are securely a child of God and nothing can ever destroy that reality.

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 8:38-39)

Read II Corinthians 5:17

According to this verse, should you act differently now that you are saved? _____

Why? _____

*If ye love me, keep my commandments.
(John 14:15)*

How should we show our love to Jesus?

Does this mean you will never sin again?

Unfortunately, you still live in a physical body that has desires to do wrong. You will sin again. When you do, what should be your response?

Read 1 John 1:9

What should you do when you sin again?

The Bible refers to salvation as “adoption” into God’s family. When our children disobey, we punish them, but they continue to be our children. God also may punish us, but we continue to be His children. True confession and repentance of sins does not make us “re-saved”, but restores the fellowship that we lost as a result of our disobedience.



SECTION 3 – The Bible

The Bible is an amazing book which has stood the test of time, and is the source of all of our beliefs. In this section, we will discuss what the Bible is in an attempt to gain a better appreciation of it.



How we got the Bible

The Bible is actually a collection of writings put together into one book. These books were written over a period of 1,600 years by about 40 different men.

Before the time of Jesus, the Old Testament had already been gathered together as the Jewish Scriptures. By AD 100, the whole New Testament had been written, and was slowly gathered together into the one book that we have today.

Most of the Old Testament was written in Hebrew, while some parts were written in Aramaic. Greek was the original language of the New Testament.

The Bible has one central theme, which is the redemption of man which ultimately brings glory to God.

How many different men did God use to write the books of the Bible? _____

How many years did it take to write the Bible? _____

What is the central theme of the Bible? _____

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

How was Scripture given? _____

The phrase “given by inspiration of God” literally means “God-breathed”. In a way that we don’t completely understand, God put within the writers the words that He wanted recorded.

Read II Peter 1:20-21

What do these verses say about the origin of the Bible?

We believe in the *plenary* inspiration of the Bible. This means that the Bible as a whole was inspired by God.

We also believe in the *verbal* inspiration of the Bible. This means that the words that were originally written down were exactly the ones God wanted.

So, what is the difference between plenary and verbal inspiration? Simply this – if you believe in only plenary inspiration, you may allow for errors in the Bible. You would believe that although the main idea of the Bible is “breathed out” by God, there may be some words or ideas in it that did not come from God.

Verbal inspiration is the belief that everything in the Bible was originally recorded exactly how God wanted it. Therefore, no one has to decide what to believe, as it is all God’s Word.

Define verbal inspiration: _____

What is a danger of not believing in verbal inspiration? _____

Read 1 Peter 1:23-25

What do these verses tell you about the Bible? _____

Why is a correct view of the Bible so important?

Many people today question whether or not there is an absolute truth – that is, a truth that is true for everyone, no matter who they are and where they live. If there was no absolute truth, then every person would have the right to do whatever he wanted – no one would have authority to make rules. Everyday living would be a total catastrophe.

...thy word is truth.

John 17:17



Jesus, while praying to the Father, said, “Thy word is truth” (John 17:17). If the words that come from God are true, then the Bible is also true, as it is the message of God to man. Therefore, everything must be judged according to the Bible.

Use your imagination - what would happen if there were no absolute truth in the universe?

The layout of the Bible

The Bible is divided into two sections called the Old and New Testaments.

The Old Testament basically covers the time period from Creation to the birth of Jesus. It deals mainly with God's covenants (testaments) to Israel and explains how Israel turned against Him. Many prophets that God sent to warn Israel of coming judgment wrote books that are included in the Old Testament.



The New Testament begins at the birth of Jesus and continues through the end of time. In it is described the new covenant (testament) that Jesus made – that a person can have a relationship with God through belief in Jesus Christ. It also describes the spread of the Gospel (news of Jesus Christ) in the early 1st century AD.

There are 66 books in the Bible – 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. Most of the chapter and verse divisions were not in the original manuscripts but were added later to help us reference certain thoughts. This is crucial to know because when studying the Bible, you must always consider the context of a verse. You do this by looking at the surrounding verses and chapters.

What are the two divisions of the Bible called?

_____ and _____

What is the main idea of the Old Testament? _____

What is the main idea of the New Testament? _____

How many books are in the Old Testament? _____

How many books are in the New Testament? _____

What must you always consider when studying the Bible? _____

Why do you think this is important? _____

Old Testament

Pentateuch - Books of the Law (5)

God gave these books to explain the Old Covenant and set up the Law. They also describe the origin of Israel, God's chosen people. They were written by Moses.

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

Historical Books (12)

These books describe the early days of Israel.

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
I & II Samuel
I & II Kings
I & II Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

Poetic Books (5)

This section includes songs of Israel as well as other poetic books.

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon

Major Prophets (5)

These books are called "major" because they are bigger books, not because they are more important. They were written by God-called prophets who were sent to bring Israel back to God.

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel

Minor Prophets (12)

These are shorter books written by the prophets that God sent to Israel.

Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

Total Old Testament Books: 39

New Testament

Gospels (4)

Gospel means “good news”. The prophets of the Old Testament had mourned for Israel and prophesied of a Messiah to come to save them. Now the good news is that Jesus had come to be the Messiah.

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

History (1)

There is one book in this section – Acts. It describes the origin of the church.

Acts

Epistles (21)

Epistles means “letters”. Most were written by the apostle Paul to Gentile churches and primarily teach doctrine.

Romans
I & II Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
I & II Thessalonians
I & II Timothy
Titus
Philemon
Hebrews
James
I & II Peter
I, II, & III John
Jude

Prophecy (1)

Revelation is the only book in this section. It is mainly a prophecy of things still to come.

Revelation

Total New Testament Books: 27

What does “gospel” mean? _____

What is the difference between “major” and “minor” prophets? _____

Why are some New Testament books called “epistles”? _____

OLD TESTAMENT (39)			NEW TESTAMENT (27)		
Pentateuch – Books of the Law (5)			Gospels (4)		
Genesis	Leviticus	Deuteronomy	Matthew	Luke	
Exodus	Numbers		Mark	John	
Historical Books (12)			Historical Books (1)		
Joshua	II Samuel	II Chronicles	Acts		
Judges	I Kings	Ezra			
Ruth	II Kings	Nehemiah			
I Samuel	I Chronicles	Esther			
Poetic Books (9)			Epistles (21)		
Job	Proverbs	Song of Solomon	Romans	I Thessalonians	James
Psalms	Ecclesiastes		I Corinthians	II Thessalonians	I Peter
			II Corinthians	I Timothy	II Peter
			Galatians	II Timothy	I John
			Ephesians	Titus	II John
			Philippians	Philemon	III John
			Colossians	Hebrews	Jude
Major Prophets (5)			Prophecy (1)		
Isaiah	Lamentations	Daniel	Revelation		
Jeremiah	Ezekiel				
Minor Prophets (12)					
Hosea	Jonah	Zephaniah			
Joel	Micah	Haggai			
Amos	Nahum	Zechariah			
Obadiah	Habakkuk	Malachi			

The Division of Old and New Testaments

The division of the Old Covenant and New Covenant happened at the death of Jesus. In the Old Testament, God established His covenant with Israel, which was centered around first the Tabernacle, then the Temple. God’s presence rested in the “Holy of Holies”, which was a room in the Tabernacle that common man was not allowed to enter. Only select priests were allowed into the presence of God.

However, when Jesus died on the cross, the curtain that separated this holy place from the rest of the Temple was split in two. This began the new covenant, in which every man can enter the presence of God.



And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost. And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom.

(Mark 15:37-38)

Part of the old covenant was the Law that God gave to Israel. This Law, which is summed up in the Ten Commandments, showed man how a holy God wants him to live. The laws were very rigid and impossible to live up to completely.

Read Galatians 3:24

To what is the Law compared? _____

What was the purpose of the Law? _____

The Law showed us that we are totally unfit to be holy in God's eyes ourselves, so we needed a Savior.

Forgiveness of sin is different today. Under the Law, the people had to go to a human priest who would make a sacrifice so God could overlook their sins. Today we have Jesus Christ as our priest, who offered Himself as the final sacrifice which God accepted. If we put our complete trust in Him, God forgives our sins. That is called grace.

In the Old Testament, there were rules of Law. In the New Testament, God gives us grace, allowing us salvation through belief in Jesus Christ.

OLD TESTAMENT	NEW TESTAMENT
LAW	GRACE

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:
(1 John 2:1)

Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God. But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people: The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: ... But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.
(Hebrews 9:6-12)

What job does Jesus fill today? _____

An "advocate" is an intercessor. Although we are guilty of sin, Jesus intercedes to the Father on our behalf. That is the beauty of the grace in the New Testament.

SECTION 4 – Bible Doctrines

A doctrine is a belief. Understanding Bible doctrine is important because there is much false teaching in the world. What you believe will determine how you act. In an earlier lesson, we discussed that the Bible is truth. Therefore, we need to know what the Bible teaches about doctrine.



What does “doctrine” mean?

THE DOCTRINE OF GOD (THEOLOGY)

The term “theology” comes from the Greek word *theos*, which means “God”. The Bible assumes the existence of God. While some don’t accept God because they can’t see Him, it also takes faith to believe there is *no* God.

Here are some basic truths about God:

- ➔ God is a spirit - He cannot be perceived by our physical senses.

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.
(John 4:24)

- ➔ God is eternal – He has no beginning and no ending.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.
(Psalms 90:2)

When did God begin to exist? According to the Bible, He has always existed and always will exist.

- ➔ God is Omnipresent - He is everywhere at every time. He has no physical limitations.

Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.
(Jeremiah 23:24)

- ➔ God is Omniscient – He is all-knowing. You cannot go any place where God cannot see you.

The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.
(Proverbs 15:3)

- ➔ God is Omnipotent - He has unlimited power. There is nothing He cannot do.

Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.

(Genesis 18:14)

- ➔ God is Immutable – He cannot change.

For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

(Malachi 3:6)

- ➔ God is Transcendent – He is above and beyond creation. The earth is not God, and God is not the earth, nor is He in it. He created it and controls it.

For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy...

(Isaiah 57:15a)

- ➔ Imminent – God is close to His creation. He didn't create the universe then let it run on its own. He is very active in our lives.

...I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

(Isaiah 57:15b)

- ➔ God is Love - He not only *has* love, He *is* love. God has shown His love to us in that He gave His Son. That is true, self-sacrificing love.

He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

(1 John 4:8)

- ➔ God is a trinity – He is one God in three Persons. These persons are God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit.

Read Matthew 3:16-17

All three members of the Trinity were present at Jesus' baptism. Jesus was being baptized, the Father spoke from Heaven, and the Holy Spirit came and rested on Him.



What is “theology”?

What is the difference between “transcendent” and “imminent”?

Who are the three members of the Trinity?

How were all the members of the Trinity present at Jesus’ baptism?

How does the fact that God is omnipotent affect your life?

THE FATHER IS GOD

*To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from **God our Father**, and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

(Romans 1:7)

THE SON IS GOD

*But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, **O God**, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.*

(Hebrews 1:8)

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD

*But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to **lie to the Holy Ghost**, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? **thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.***

(Acts 5:3-4)

THE DOCTRINE OF JESUS (CHRISTOLOGY)

The basis of everything we believe is that Jesus is the Son of God and He died, was buried, and rose again. While many people in the world are religious and attempt to serve God, only those who believe in Jesus Christ can be accepted by Him.

Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.
(2 John 1:9)

Read I Corinthians 3:9-11

To what is Jesus Christ compared in these verses? _____

It is important to remember that the word “Christ” isn’t a name, but a title. It means “Anointed” or “Messiah”. Throughout the Old Testament, the Jews were waiting for an “Anointed One” to come and free them. Jesus came and fulfilled all the prophecies of the Messiah; however, His people rejected Him.

What does the title “Christ” mean? _____

John gave us some very important information about Jesus in the book of John. Let’s look at what he says in chapter 1.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.
(John 1:1-3)

In these verses, we see three very important characteristics of the one John describes as the “Word”.

- 1) He was in the beginning
- 2) He was with God
- 3) He was God
- 4) He made all things

When did the “Word” begin to exist? _____

Now, let’s skip down a few more verses in this chapter.

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.
(John 1:14-15)

Here we find another interesting fact about the “Word” - He was made flesh and lived on the earth.

Who is this “Word”? Who could this one be who existed since the beginning, was God, and made all things? John clearly states a few verses later the identity of the “Word”.

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me.

(John 1:29-30)

Jesus is the Word, no question about it. Therefore, all of the attributes that John applied to the Word are actually attributes of Jesus. Let’s review them:

- 1) Jesus was in the beginning
- 2) Jesus was with God
- 3) Jesus was God
- 4) Jesus made all things
- 5) Jesus became flesh and lived on the earth

Why would John use the term “Word” to describe Jesus? One of the reasons Jesus came was to bring the message of forgiveness to humans. As a messenger, He is referred to as a “Word”.

In your own words, describe the reason John referred to Jesus as the “Word”.

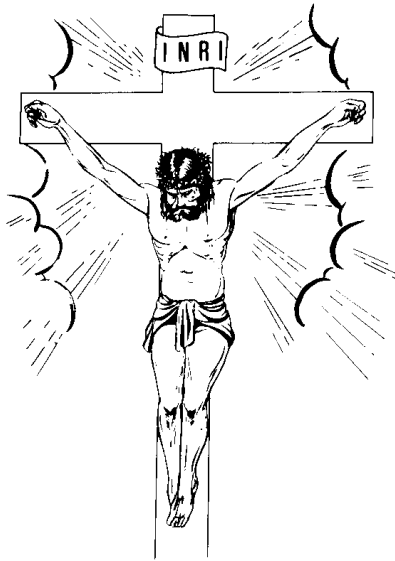


We can say for sure based upon this chapter and others that Jesus is in fact God – part of the Trinity. He never began to exist, as He has always been with the Father. He merely took on flesh in Mary’s womb so He could walk on the earth as a man.

Because He has always existed, He did not need a human father. He only needed a mother to use as a vessel to carry His earthly body as it was forming. That is why Mary is often referred to as the “Virgin Mary”. At the time of Jesus’ birth, she was a virgin.

Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

(Matthew 1:23-25)



So, why did Jesus become a man? In order for God to be able to accept man into His presence, a man had to take the punishment that all men deserved. This man had to be perfect, or he would be first faced with the impossible task of atoning for his own sin.

Jesus, as both God and man, took all of humanity's sin on Himself. God accepted His payment of death and offered righteousness to man.

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

(2 Corinthians 5:21)

Did Jesus ever sin? _____

Read Romans 1:3-4

The issue of who Jesus was is extremely important. In Romans 1:3-4, we see that Jesus was “made” of the seed of David – He was born as a descendant of David, one of the greatest kings of Israel.

We also see that He was “declared” to be the Son of God. He never “became” the Son of God – He was the Son of God since the beginning. In other words, His resurrection proved who He was. The eternal Son of God became a man so He could live on the earth. He was fully God and fully man.

What was Jesus made to be? _____

What was Jesus declared to be? _____

What event proved that Jesus was in fact the Son of God?



THE DOCTRINE OF MAN (ANTHROPOLOGY)

Who is man? Your answer to that question will determine much of how you respond to the Bible and the truth of Jesus Christ.

The Origin of Man

One of the most important questions that many people ask is “Why are we here?” To understand why we are here, we need to understand how we got here.

Two answers are given for the origin of man:

- 1) He developed through millions of years of evolution
- 2) God created him in His image (we can reason, we have personality, etc.)

The belief that man evolved by chance removes his dignity, worth, and accountability. That is the reason for an increase in murder and abortion. On the other hand, if you believe that God created man in His image, then man must have both worth and a purpose and would be accountable to God for his actions.

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

(Genesis 1:26-27)

Why is it so important to understand how man began to exist? _____

The Bible makes it clear that man was created as a perfect being. However, this is obviously not the case today. What happened?

The Fall of Man

Read Genesis 3:1-6

Adam and Eve, the first humans, disobeyed God. This introduction of sin caused a disruption in their relationship with God. Though God had originally designed humans to be without sin, their rebellion against God caused them to fall.



Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

(Romans 5:12)

Only one man has ever been born who never sinned, and that is Jesus Christ. He was miraculously placed within the womb of Mary with no human father, so he was not born a sinner like all other people. Because He never sinned, He was able to offer Himself as a payment that God required in order to forgive people.

For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

(Romans 5:19)

Was man originally created with or without sin? _____

What caused the fall of man? _____

Why was Jesus able to make the payment for our sins? _____

SECTION 5 – The Church

Everyone knows about the church – but many think that it is just a place to go on Sunday to “get religion”. The true church is actually much more than that.

In the writing of the New Testament, the Greek word used for church is *ekklesia*, which means “a called-out assembly”.



Read I Corinthians 12:23-27

In these verses, the Apostle Paul is writing to the church in Corinth. What does he call them? _____

Just as the different parts of your physical body works together, the members of the Church should work together. God has given each of us different personalities, talents, and desires, and He expects us to use them in His service.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.
(Matthew 28:19-20)

These are Jesus’ last words to His disciples before He left the earth after His resurrection. He passed along a job to the disciples, which in turn is passed on to all who would later believe in Jesus Christ (the Church).

What are the three jobs Jesus gave to His people?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Read Matthew 16:13-18

Jesus was not claiming that He would build His Church on Peter, but on Peter’s confession – that Jesus was indeed the Christ, the Son of God.

What is the foundation upon which the Church is built? _____

Membership in a local church

Many local churches keep a membership list. A member is allowed to vote in business meetings and freely serve in the church.

To be a member of First Baptist Church, a person needs to be part of God's Church, which means he must be saved by putting his faith in Jesus Christ. Also, he must be baptized, as this is given in the New Testament as the first step of obedience to God. We also require that all members agree to live by our statement of faith and constitution.

What are the three requirements for membership at First Baptist Church?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



When you finish this course, you will meet with the deacons (don't worry – they're a friendly group of guys!) and the pastor, who will recommend you to the church for membership.

Offices of the Church

While there are many jobs to be done in the church, there are only two official positions given in the Bible – the pastor and deacon.

➤ **Pastor**

The pastor is also referred to in the New Testament as a "bishop" or "elder". He is the leader of the congregation and is charged with caring for the spiritual welfare of the people.



Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

(1 Peter 5:2)

What are the two jobs given in this verse for the pastor?

1. _____
2. _____

➤ **Deacon**

The other biblical position in the church is the deacon. The word deacon literally means "servant". The job of the deacon is to help take care of the physical needs of the people in the church.

What does the word "deacon" mean? _____

Read Acts 6:1-7

We believe these men to be the first deacons. What was their role in the Church?

At First Baptist Church, each family is assigned a deacon. When you have a need, you can let your deacon know about it so he can find a way to help you.

Ordinances

In the church, an ordinance is a “practice” or “ceremony”. In the Bible, God has given the Church two ordinances – baptism and communion.

➤ **Baptism**

The word “baptize” literally means “immerse” or “submerge”. It is the same word that was used in the Greek language to describe putting a dirty dish under the water to clean it. The purpose of baptism is identification with Jesus Christ – you are showing the world that you follow Him.

By being immersed under the water, you show your belief that Jesus died, and being raised from the water shows that you believe that Jesus was also raised from the dead. Baptism is not required to be saved, but it was the first step of obedience that believers in Jesus Christ took when they were saved. You can read about Jesus’ baptism in Matthew 3:13-17.



What does the word “baptize” mean? _____

Do you have to be baptized to go to Heaven? _____

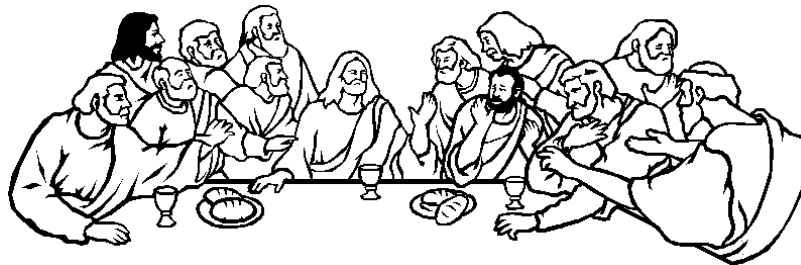
➤ **Communion**

Communion is also called the Lord’s Supper. When we take part in it, we are remembering how Jesus gave up His body in death to pay for our sins.

Read I Corinthians 11:23-30

The bread is a picture of Jesus’ _____

The cup is a picture of Jesus’ _____



SECTION 6 – Your Duties as a Christian

Once you become a Christian, there are some things that God expects you to do. In the second lesson of this study, we discussed II Corinthians 5:17 – that you are a new creation in Jesus Christ. In this section, we'll see how this should play out in your life.



Separation from the world

When we studied about the Church, we discovered that the term “Church” means “a called-out assembly”. We have been called out of the world and should not act like it any more.

Read II Corinthians 6:14-17

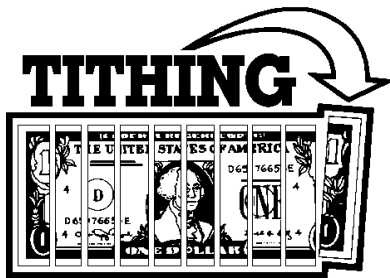
What do these verses teach us about our relationship with unbelievers?

Does this mean that we should never be around people who are not Christians? _____

Why? _____

Tithing

The word “tithes” literally means “tenth”. In the Old Testament, God commanded His people, the Israelites, to give a tenth of their profit to Him (Leviticus 27:30). There are also many examples in the New Testament of giving. Anything that we give above a tenth of our income is generally known as an “offering”. It makes sense to give more than our tithes to God – especially considering all He has done for us!



What does “tithes” mean? _____

Read I Corinthians 9:13-14

Just as offerings in the Old Testament helped provide a living for the priests, today tithes and offerings help support those who preach the Gospel, such as pastors and missionaries.

Read II Kings 22:3-5

In this passage, money was taken up to make repairs to the Temple. Money taken up in churches today also goes toward building upkeep so the ministry can continue.

Read Deuteronomy 14:28-29

Another reason money should be given to the church is to help those who are less fortunate and have needs.

What are three reasons to give money to your church?

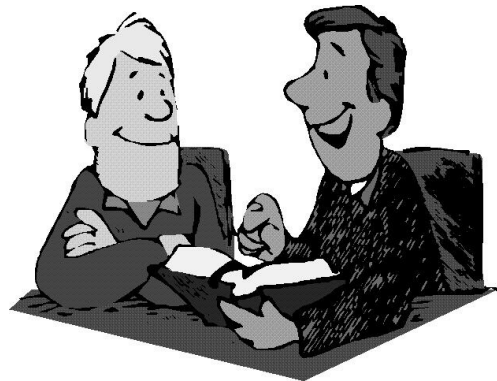
Read these verses to get an idea how God feels about His people giving to Him.

Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

(Malachi 3:8-10)

Witnessing

A witness is a person who testifies what he knows to be true. If you have put your faith in Jesus Christ, you can be a witness for Him, even if you don't know much about the Bible. All you have to do is share what God has done for you – no one can argue with your experience!



What is a witness? _____

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.

(Matthew 28:19-20)

These are the last words Jesus spoke before He ascended up to Heaven. His last command is to go into all the world to bring people to Him.

What was Jesus' last command to us? _____

Jesus' death makes it possible for every person in the world to be forgiven. God will never refuse to receive anyone who believes on His Son Jesus Christ.

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

(2 Peter 3:9)

What is God's desire for every person? _____

Anyone can be saved, so we have been charged with the responsibility of spreading the Gospel message to the whole world.

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

(Romans 10:13-14)

What has to happen before someone can be saved? _____

Church Fellowship

One of the blessings of being a Christian is having a group of other believers available for fellowship. While this is a great benefit, some neglect to take part causing them to lose their excitement for the things of God.

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

(Hebrews 10:25)

What are we commanded to do that some have forsaken? _____

Assembling together is not only a command; it is a privilege. When the church meets together, it is an opportunity to come out of the world and enjoy fellowship with others who are also believers in Jesus Christ.

At First Baptist, we believe that fellowship with other believers is extremely important. If you start to neglect this area of your life, you will stop growing in Christian maturity.



Edification

Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.

(Romans 14:19)

One of the most exciting jobs of the church is edification. As we have already seen, “edification” means “building up”. We believe that we should be helping other believers grow to become more like Jesus Christ. Sometime this takes the form of encouragement, and sometimes it takes the form of discipline. However, it is all done in love, as it is our desire to see each member grow to maturity.

From time to time, a member of First Baptist will become involved in sin and will not repent, and they will have to be removed from membership. The purpose of this action is to keep the church pure before God, while at the same time praying for the wayward Christian to be restored to fellowship.



What does “edification” mean?

SECTION 7 – Prayer

Prayer is simply talking to God. It is one of the greatest privileges that we have.

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

(Hebrews 4:16)



What is prayer? _____

According to Hebrews 4:16, what can we expect from prayer? _____

These verses give us four different types of ways to pray:

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

(1 Timothy 2:1-2)

➤ **Supplications**

A supplication is a petition or a request. It is basically saying to God, “I have a need!” God is interested in our needs.

➤ **Prayers**

God also wants our general prayers – not even with a specific goal in mind. Just like you want your children to talk to you, God wants you to talk to Him.

➤ **Intercessions**

The meaning of this word is literally “interview”. This is a face-to-face meeting with God that has a specific purpose. Usually it is a prayer on behalf of the needs of another person.

➤ **Giving of thanks**

God wants His people to give Him thanks. We need to realize that everything we have is a gift from Him.

In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

(1 Thessalonians 5:18)

What is a supplication? _____

What is the meaning of “prayers” as used in 1 Timothy 2:1-2? _____

What is the meaning of “intercessions”? _____

For whom are we supposed to pray? _____

And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.

(Luke 11:2)

To whom are we supposed to direct our prayers? _____

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

(1 Timothy 2:5)

Why do we say, “...in Jesus’ name” when we are praying? _____



Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

(James 4:3)

What is one reason that prayer is not answered by God?

There is another reason that God does not answer prayer – unforgiveness. If we harbor unforgiveness toward another person, we have no right to ask forgiveness from God.

And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

(Mark 11:25-26)

What should you do before you pray? _____

Congratulations!

You have finished your New Member Bible Study. I hope it has been a blessing to you.

We look forward to serving God together with you. As you begin to get involved at First Baptist Church, let me encourage you to find an area of ministry where your talents can be used to bring glory to God.

Please don't be afraid to call on the deacons or me when you need help. That's why we're here!

In Christ,



Pastor Ben Hammond