

It is my joy to welcome you to the family of God here at Journey Fellowship Baptist Church. I am delighted you have joined the ranks with us as we strive to do God's will and glorify His name. I am especially thankful that you made the choice to participate in First Steps. I believe this class will encourage you as you grow as a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ and as an informed member of our church. Nothing thrills this Pastor's heart more than to see people come to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, to grow in Christ-likeness, and then to get involved in serving God and others. We call that WIN, GROW, SEND. You have taken a critical step in all three of these Christian essentials, and I commend you.

Pastor John

Growth is life's greatest adventure! God delights in growth. It is never His intention that we stay the same. First Steps is designed to help you grow in your personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. It is our desire that the church play a vital part in your life and that you play a vital part in the life of the church! As someone new to Journey Fellowship Baptist Church, this really is the first step in your new church family. This class will help you understand the philosophies, ministries, direction and expectations of your new church. This is, in fact, your first step in a great adventure of growth, worship, and service.

Here's what you can expect from this class:

1. You will learn how to walk in intimacy with God.
2. You will learn the church's doctrine.
3. You will discover how God has gifted you for ministry.
4. You will discover how to get involved in ministry.
5. You will "connect" with a Life Group and a place of ministry suited to your giftedness, abilities, desires, and expectations.

We stand ready to assist you in any way possible. We want to help you move from the audience to the army.

Welcome to the Journey Fellowship Baptist Church family!

Session One OUR OPPORTUNITY

This session is the basic introduction to our church family. Since we have members from different church backgrounds, this session was designed to clearly explain who we are as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Biblical Basis for Session One

“So then you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household.” (Ephesians 2:19)

KEY TRUTHS

1. The church is a family.
2. God expects you to be a member of a church family.
3. A Christian without a church family is a contradiction.

The Goal of Session One

That I will commit myself to Christ and to Journey Fellowship Baptist Church.

What makes Journey Fellowship a family?

1. Jesus prayed that we would be one.
“That they may all be one: even as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.” (John 17:21)
2. The Holy Spirit makes us one.
*“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.”
(1 Corinthians 12:13)*

3. We are to maintain the unity that the Spirit gave us.

“Being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

(Ephesians 4:3)

4. The Apostle Paul gave us several basic doctrinal truths that unite us.

“There is one body and one spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, and one baptism, one God and Father of all who is overall and through all and in all.”

Our Salvation

“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:26-28)

What does it mean to be a Christian?

Most people live their entire lives without ever knowing “WHY”. They exist year after year with no idea of why they live or God’s purpose of their lives. The most basic question a person can ask is “What is the meaning of my life?”

Everyone wants to be happy. People try many ways:

1. Some look for happiness by **acquiring possessions.**
2. Some look for happiness by **experiencing pleasure.**
3. Some look for happiness by **gaining prestige and power.**

But real happiness comes from understanding my

Purpose in life.

Why am I here?

1. God made me to love me.

“The LORD appeared to him from afar, saying, “I have loved you with an everlasting love...” (Jeremiah 31:3)

2. We were created to enjoy a personal relationship with God and to manage all the rest of God’s creation. This makes us special!

“God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” (Genesis 1:27-28)

“Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.” (1 Timothy 6:17)

“... I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” (John 10:10)

3. When we know and love God and live in harmony with His purpose for our lives, it produces tremendous benefits in our lives.

Clear Conscience

Romans 8:1

Power & Strength

Philippians 4:13

Purpose

Romans 8:28

Security

Romans 8:39

This is the kind of lifestyle God intends for us to live.

Why then aren’t most people really happy?

What’s the problem?

Man has a natural desire to be his own boss and to ignore God’s principles for living.

The Bible calls this attitude sin.

*“All of us are like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has **turned to his own way**;” (Isaiah 53:6)*

“If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.” (1 John 1:8)

Sin breaks our close relationship with God.

It causes us to fear God and try to live our lives outside His will.

When our relationship to God is not right, it causes PROBLEMS in every area of our lives- marriage, career, relationships, finances, etc.

“There is a way which seems right to man, but its end is the way of death.”

Proverbs 16:25

Even when we know that our deepest need is God, we often try wrong ways of getting to know him. For example:

1. “My mother was a Christian, so...”
2. “I’ll give up all my bad habits.”
3. “I’ll work real hard and earn it.”
4. “I’ll be religious and go to church.”
5. “It doesn’t matter what you believe, just be sincere.”

What’s the solution ?

*Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father **but through ME.**” (John 14:6)*

God Himself came to earth as a human being to bring us back to Himself. If any other way would have worked, Jesus Christ would not have had to come.

The Way is a Person!!

Jesus has already taken care of your sin problem!

*“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
(Romans 6:23)*

God did this for us because He loves us and wants us to know Him.

*“For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,”
(1 Timothy 2:5)*

God has already done His part to restore our relationship to Him. He took the initiative.
Now He waits for each of us to individually accept what He has done for us.

What does God want me to do?

1. Admit that God has not been first place in your life and ask him to forgive your sins.

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)

2. Repent of your sins. This means to turn from your sin and selfish ways and turn to Jesus Christ as Lord.

“I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.” (Luke 13:3)

3. Believe that Jesus died to pay for your sins and that He rose again on Easter, and is alive today.

“That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;” (Romans 10:9)

“And there is salvation is no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

4. Accept God’s free gift of salvation. Don’t try to earn it.

“For by grace you have been saved through faith; And that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God not as a result of work, so that no one may boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

**Our relationship to God is not restored by anything we do, but by what Jesus
already did for us!**

5. Invite Jesus Christ to come into your life and be the Lord (Master, Ruler) of your life.

“But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.” (John 1:12-13)

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock; If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come into him and will dine with him, and he with Me.” (Revelation 3:20)

**YOU CAN TAKE THESE STEPS BY PRAYING A SIMPLE,
BUT SINCERE, PRAYER OF COMMITMENT TO GOD:**

“Dear Lord, I know I am a Sinner and cannot save myself. Thank you for loving me and for dying on the cross for my sins. I turn from my sins and place my faith in you, Lord Jesus. Forgive my sins and save my soul. I give you my life. Make me the kind of person you want me to be. Take control of the throne of my life. In Jesus name, Amen.”

“For WHOEVER will call on the name of the Lord will be SAVED.”

Romans 10:13

MY SALVATION RECORD

Name

Date Saved

Place Where You Were Saved

Family/Friends With Me When I Was Saved

My Salvation Testimony

(Check One)

1. I know for sure that I am saved and will go to heaven when I die.
2. I know for sure that I am unsaved and will go to hell when I die.
3. I am unsure of my salvation.

If you would like to talk with someone about getting saved or receiving assurance of your salvation, then please feel free to see the teacher at the conclusion of today's session. Don't put off this decision. It is the most important decision in life!!!

**“Behold, now is the ACCEPTABLE TIME, behold, now is the DAY OF
SALVATION”**

2 Corinthians 6:2

Session Two

Our Obedience- Baptism

Why should I be baptized?

1. To follow the example set by Christ.

“In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.” (Mark 1:9)

2. Because Christ Commanded it.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you...” (Matthew 28:19-20)

3. It demonstrates that I really am a believer.

“... many of the Corinthians when they heard were believing and being baptized.” (Acts 18:8)

Baptism is the first step of obedience that every believer should take.

What is the meaning of baptism?

1. It pictures Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

“... Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, ...He was buried, ... that He was raised on the third day according to the scriptures,” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

“... having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him.” (Colossians 2:12)

2. It pictures my new life in Christ.

“Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into his death? Therefore, we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.” (Romans 6:3-4)

3. It pictures our physical death and our ultimate bodily resurrection.
“For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection,” (Romans 6:5)

Baptism doesn't make you a believer – it shows that you already believe. Baptism does not “save” you; only your faith in Christ does that.

Baptism is like a ...

Wedding Ring - it's the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart. Wearing a wedding ring does not make you married but does indicate that you are. Baptism does not save you, but it does identify you as being saved.

Baptism Identifies You With Jesus Christ!

Why be baptized by immersion?

1. Because Jesus was baptized that way.
“After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water...” (Matthew 3:16)
2. Every baptism in the New Testament was by immersion.
“... and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him. When they came up out of the water...” (Acts 8:38-39)
3. The word baptize means “to go under water.” The Greek word baptizo means “to immerse or dip under water.”
4. It best symbolizes a burial and resurrection.

What does it mean when we refer to “scriptural baptism”?

It is baptism...

1. By Immersion
2. After Salvation

Who should be baptized?

Every person who has believed in Christ.

“So then, those who had received his word were baptized...” (Acts 2:41)

“Even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized...” (Acts 8:13)

Can children be baptized?

At JFBC, we allow anyone who is born again to be baptized.

Some churches practice a “baptism of confirmation” for children. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on the behalf of the child. The parents commit to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his or her own personal confession of Christ. This custom began about 300 years after the Bible was completed.

This is different than the baptism talked about in the Bible, which was only for those who believe. The purpose is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ.

At Journey Fellowship Baptist Church, it is a membership requirement that every member must have been baptized the way Jesus demonstrated.

When should I be baptized?

AS SOON AS YOU HAVE BELIEVED!!

“So then, those who had received his word were baptized...” (Acts 2:41)

Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this scripture he preached Jesus to him.

As they went along the road they came to some water; And the eunuch said, “Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?” and Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” (Acts 8:35-38)

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have received Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are ‘perfect’, you’ll never feel ‘good enough’!

Can my family be baptized together?

Yes! If each family member understands fully the meaning of baptism, and each one has personally placed his/her trust in Christ for salvation. We encourage families to be baptized at the same time. It is a wonderful expression of commitment.

However, it is important to remember that baptism is a personal statement of faith, not a family tradition. It is usually not wise to delay your baptism while waiting on other family members to accept Christ, particularly children. This puts an undue pressure on them and delays your obedience. We encourage you to invite your relatives and friends to attend your baptism.

What should I wear when I am baptized?

All those being baptized will be given a robe to wear. It would be a good idea to wear a light-colored T-shirt and a pair of shorts under your baptismal robe (the robes may be a little transparent after they become wet). We provide towels, hair dryers, and changing rooms.

Journey Fellowship Baptist Church

BAPTISM GUIDE

WHAT WE BELIEVE

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED

Christians believe that the blood of Jesus Christ, shed on the cross, provides the sole basis for the forgiveness of sin. Therefore, salvation occurs only when a person places his or her faith in the death and resurrection of Christ as the sufficient payment for his or her sin.

If you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, then you are ready to be baptized. Just like a bride and groom show others their love for one another by wearing wedding bands, your baptism is your opportunity to show others that you have accepted Christ and are now walking with him.

(Matthew 10:32-38)

WHAT BAPTISM SYMBOLIZES

Baptism is a way of showing others that you have entered into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Baptism is a symbol of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. It is an outward symbol of an inner experience of death through Christ to the old life, and resurrection with Him to a new life. Baptism serves as an open declaration of your faith in Christ. The act of baptism does not save you, but it shows that you are saved. (Romans 6:4)

WHY BE BAPTIZED

Jesus was baptized and commands us to be baptized to be identified with Him. Baptism is an act of obedience. We prove that we love Jesus by keeping His commands. *"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)

HOW TO BE BAPTIZED

By immersion after you have trusted Christ as your personal Savior. The word baptism in Greek (baptizo) literally means immersion or to dip under water. Biblical baptism is complete submersion of the person in water. (Mark 1:9-11)

WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED

As soon as you have accepted Christ as your personal Savior. Don't delay this first step of obedience. Speak with Pastor John or a minister during a church service. If further discussion is needed we will arrange a meeting to speak to you about baptism. On baptism day please arrive 15 minutes early in sanctuary, bring clothing to wear under your baptismal robe (shorts, and dark colored t-shirt are suggested), invite all your family and friends. For further questions please call Pastor John Lemmings at 770-314-5115

OUR OBEDIENCE – THE LORD’S SUPPER

Jesus never asked His disciples to remember His birth. He did instruct them to remember His death and resurrection. He gave the church two visible symbols (called “ordinances”) as reminders of His death. The two ordinances are: **baptism** and **the Lord’s Supper**. The Lord’s Supper is an object lesson that represents a great spiritual truth for believers.

What is the Lord’s Supper? (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

1. It is a simple act, not an elaborate ceremony.

“The Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread...” (v. 23)

2. It is a reminder.

“... and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” (v. 24)

3. It is a symbol.

“In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” (v. 25)

4. It is a statement of faith.

“For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.” (v. 26)

Who should take the Lord’s Supper?

Only those who are already born again.

“For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgement to himself if he does not judge the body rightly.” (1 Corinthians 11:29)

We invite all born again Christians to join in the Lord’s Supper, not just those who are members of our church.

How do I prepare myself for the Lord’s Supper?

“Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup.” (1 Corinthians 11:27-28)

By Self Examination: 1 Corinthians 11:28

By Recommitting My Life: Romans 12:1

By Confessing My Sins: 1 John 1:9

By Restoring Relationships: Matthew 5:23-24

When and how often should we observe the Lord's Supper?

Jesus never said when or how often believers should observe the Lord's Supper. At Journey Fellowship Baptist Church, we usually observe the Lord's Supper once every quarter during our Sunday morning or special service.

Session Three

Our Structure

“For God is not a God of confusion but of peace... But all things must be done properly and in an orderly manner.” (1 Corinthians 14:33,40)

The structure of the church should not be determined by culture, business practices, or even denominational traditions.

The Nature of the Church Determines its Structure

1. The Church is a fellowship.

*“They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship...”
(Acts 2:42)*

A top priority in a fellowship is harmony and unity.

“Being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (Ephesians 4:3)

“So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.” (Romans 14:19)

ANY attitude that causes disunity is sin.

Implication: A good structure promotes unity and downplays differences.

*“I do not praise you, because you come together not for the better but for the worse. For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that divisions exist among you...”
(1 Corinthians 11:17-18)*

2. The Church is a family.

“To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit” (1 Peter 3:8)

See also Galatians 6:10, Hebrews 2:10-12, 1 Peter 4:17

So, we operate on the basis of relationships not rules.

“Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but rather appeal to him as a father, to the younger men as brothers, the older women as mothers, and the younger woman as sisters...” (1 Timothy 5:1-2)

3. The Church is a Body.

See 1 Corinthians 12:27, Ephesians 5:23, 1:22-23, Colossians 1:18, 2:19

We are a Body – not a business! We are an organism – not an organization! Therefore, we function on the basis of: spiritual gifts not elected offices.

“For just as we have many members and one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who were many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us...” (Romans 12:4-6)

In an organization, maintenance becomes the focus.

But in an organism, ministry is the focus.

At Journey Fellowship, we have a simple structure so we can:

Maximize ministry and Minimize maintenance.

“And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the Saints for the work of service to the building up of the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11-12)

- The people are the ministers.
- The Pastor and staff are the administrators.

There are many different ministries in our church begun and operated by members.

4. The Church is a flock.

Jesus' favorite description of the Church:

John 10:1-30; Matthew 26:31; 25:33

Therefore, it is cared for and led by shepherds.

“He said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Shepherd (Feed) My sheep.” (John 21:16)

Four different terms are used in the New Testament to refer to the same church leaders:

POIMEN: shepherd/pastor

PRESBUTEROS: elder (mature one).

EPISCOPOS: overseer/bishop.

DIDASKOLOS: teacher

“Therefore, I exhort the elders among you... shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight...” (1 Peter 5:1-2)

Our Affiliation

1. Polk -Haralson Baptist Association

Local Southern Baptist Churches in West Georgia - 61 in number.

2. Georgia Baptist Mission Board

Southern Baptist Churches in Georgia who are associated together - 3,600 + in number.

3. Southern Baptist Convention

Southern Baptist Churches - 46,900 + in number.

What is the Southern Baptist Convention?

1. It is the largest association of Christian churches in Georgia and in America.
2. It is the most diverse association of churches.

Why not just be an independent church?

We are an independent church! Every SBC church is completely independent. There is no denominational control or hierarchy, as there is in most other denominations. Each church is self governed and determines its own affairs. For example:

1. Every SBC church chooses their own pastor.
2. Every SBC church owns its own building and assets.
3. Every SBC church determines its own programs.

What are the advantages of affiliating with the SBC?

1. It allows us to identify with other Christians around the world who are known for their commitment to the Bible. Unlike other groups, the SBC has no man made “creed”. The Bible is our only authority.
2. It allows our church to participate in the largest missionary organization in the world. We help support over 10,000 missionaries with a strategy to reach people in all countries around the world.

What it means to be a member...

At Journey Fellowship, we ask you to commit to church membership for four reasons:

1. A Biblical Reason: *Christ is committed to the church.*
“... Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her.” (Ephesians 5:25)
2. A Cultural Reason: *It is an antidote to our society.* We live in an age where very few want to be committed to anything... a job, a marriage, our country. This attitude has even produced a generation of church “shoppers and hoppers”. Membership swims against the current of America's “consumer religion”. It is an unselfish decision. Commitment always builds character.
3. A Practical Reason: *It defines who can be counted on.* Every team must have a roster. Every school must have an enrollment period. Every business has a payroll. Every army has an enlistment. Even our country takes a census and recommends voter registration. Membership defines our family.

4. A Personal Reason: *It produces spiritual growth.* The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Christians to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth. You cannot be accountable when you're not committed to any specific church family.

What is expected of me as a member of JFBC?

At Journey Fellowship, we never ask our members to do more than the Bible clearly teaches. Therefore, we expect our members to follow the commands of Christ.

Biblical Expectations

1. I will Protect the unity of my church by...

- Acting in love toward other members
- Refusing to gossip
- Following the leaders

“And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds” (Hebrews 10:24)

“Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus” (Romans 15:5)

“Since you have in obedience... a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart...” (1 Peter 1:22)

“Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment...” (Ephesians 4:29)

“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.” (Hebrews 13:17)

2. I will Share the responsibility of my church by...

- Praying for its growth
- Inviting the “unchurched” to attend
- Warmly welcoming those who visit

“We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers;”

(1 Thessalonians 1:2)

“Go out into the highways and along the hedges, and compel them to come in, so that my house may be filled.” (Luke 14:23)

*“Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.”
(Romans 15:7)*

3. I will Serve the ministry of my church by...

- Discovering my gifts and talents
- Being equipped to serve
- Developing a servant's heart

“As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” (1 Peter 4:10)

“And he gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelist, and some as pastors and teachers... to the building up of the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11-12)

“Do not merely look out for your own personal interest, but also for the interest of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which also was in Christ Jesus, who... taking the form of a bond servant, and being made in the likeness of men.” (Philippians 2:4-7)

4. I will Support the testimony of my church by...

- Attending faithfully
- Living a godly life
- Giving regularly

“Not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another;” (Hebrews 10:25)

“Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ...” (Philippians 1:27)

*“On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper...”
(1 Corinthians 16:2)*

“Thus all the tithe of the land, of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's; It is holy to the Lord.” (Leviticus 27:30)

Our Staff Structure

As the church has grown, so has the staff. We currently have a total of about 7.

Our ministerial staff totals about 6.

Our staff, like our church, is led by our Pastor - God's appointed leader for this congregation. He has surrounded himself with staff personnel to serve hand in hand as we pursue God's assignment for a New Testament church... to fulfill the Great Commission!

Session Four

Developing Disciples

What is a disciple?

1. A disciple is a believer.
“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved...” (Acts 16:31)
2. A disciple is a follower.
“Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.” (Matthew 16:24)
3. A disciple is a learner.
“So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed him, “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:31-32)
4. A disciple is a witness.
“Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you...” (Mark 5:19)
5. A disciple is baptized.
“Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins” ... So then, those who had received his word were baptized...” (Acts 2:38)
6. A disciple is a reproducer.
“My Father is glorified by this, so that you bear much fruit, and so to prove to be My disciples.” (John 15:8)
7. A disciple should have a healthy balance between evangelism and discipleship.

Our goal at Journey Fellowship Baptist Church is to develop a culture of disciple-makers.

Four Habits of a Disciple:

1. Time in God's Word

"If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31-32)

2. Prayer

"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father's glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples." (John 15:7-8)

3. Tithing

"So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions." (Luke 14:33)

"the tithe of your grain, your new wine, your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and your flock, so that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always." (Deuteronomy 14:23)

4. Fellowship

"love one another, even as I have loved you... By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35)

Definitions of "Habit" (Webster's Dictionary):

"A continual, often unconscious inclination to do a certain activity, acquired through frequent repetition. "A customary practice." "Sow a thought; reap an act." " Sow an act; reap a habit." "Sow a habit; reap character."

The Goal of Session Four:

That I will commit to the habits necessary for spiritual maturity.

"... for just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification."(Romans 6:19)

Habit #1

Time in God's Word

"All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

I. How to Hear God's Word:

"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by Word of Word." (Romans 10:17)

Ways to Hear God's Word:

- The Bible on cd or Bible app
- Sermon online
- Church services and studies
- Radio/ TV teachers

PROBLEM: We forget most of what we hear after 72 hours.

How to Improve Your Hearing:

1. Be ready and eager to hear God.
(Jesus) "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" (Luke 8:8)
"... be quick to hear..." (James 1:19)
2. Deal with attitudes that prevent hearing God. (Luke 8:4-15)
"So take care how you listen..." (Luke 8:18)
3. Confess any sin in your life.
"... putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word..." (James 1:21)
4. Take notes on what you hear.
"We must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it." (Hebrews 2:1)

5. Act on what you hear!

“But one who looks intently at the perfect law... and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.”

(James 1:25)

Barriers to Hearing:

- **A Closed Mind:** Is fear, pride, or bitterness preventing me from hearing God?
- **A Superficial Mind:** Am I really serious about wanting to hear God speak?
- **A Pre-Occupied Mind:** Am I too busy and concerned with other things to concentrate on what God has to say?

Keep a Spiritual Notebook

A Spiritual Notebook is a tool to help me organize and retain blessings of God and the things I have learned.

II. How to Read God’s Word:

“Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it...” (Revelation 1:3)

How often should I read God’s Word? Daily

“(The Scriptures) It shall be with him and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God, by carefully observing all the words of this law and these statutes.” (Deuteronomy 17:19)

Suggestions:

- Read it systematically.
- Read it in a Bible without notes.
- Read it in different translations. For reading: King James, New King James, CSB
- Read it aloud quietly to yourself.
- Underline or color code key verses.

- Choose a reading plan and stick with it.

If I read approximately 20 minutes a day, I can read through the Bible once in a year.

“I have not departed from the command of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food” (Job 23:12)

III. How to Study God’s Word

“for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the scriptures daily...” (Acts 17:11)

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman.. accurately handling the Word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15)

The difference between reading and studying the Bible is that you use a pencil when you study.

IV. How to Memorize God’s Word

“Keep my commandments and live... Write them on the tablet of your heart.” (Proverbs 7:2-3)

Benefits of Memorizing Scripture:

1. It helps me resist temptations.

“Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You.” (Psalm 119:11)

2. It helps me make wise decisions.

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (Psalm 119:105)

3. It strengthens me when I’m under stress.

“Remember the word to Your servant, In which You have made me hope. This is my comfort in my affliction, That Your word has received me.” (Psalm 119:49-50)

4. It comforts me when I’m sad.

“... Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; For I have been called by Your name, O Lord God of hosts.” (Jerimiah 15:16)

“For it will pleasant if you keep them within you, That they may be ready on your lips.” (Proverbs 22:18)

5. It helps me witness to unbelievers.

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” (1 Peter 3:15)

How to Memorize a Verse:

1. Pick out a verse that speaks to you.
2. Write out the verse on a flash card.
3. Say the reference before and after the verse.
4. Carry some cards with you at all times for review.
5. Read the verse aloud many times. Record it!
6. Display your verses in prominent places.
7. Break the verse into natural phrases.
8. Always memorize the verse word-perfect.
9. Emphasize key words when quoting the verse.
10. Write down the verse and erase a word at a time.
11. Get a partner so you can check each other.

Three Keys to Memorizing:

- Review
- Review
- Review

V. How to Meditate on God's Word

"And in His law he meditates day and night. He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its seasons and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers." (Psalm 1:2-3)

Meditation is focused thinking about a Bible verse in order to discover how I can apply its truth to my own life. "To chew on a scripture like a cow chews on a cud of grass."

Why meditate on Scripture?

It is key to...

1. Becoming like Christ

*"Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life."
(Proverbs 4:23)*

"... be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2)

"But we all... are being transformed into the same image.." (2 Corinthians 3:18)

2. Answered prayer

"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." (John 15:7)

3. Successful living

"... you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success." (Joshua 1:8)

VI. How to Apply God's Word

"But prove yourselves doers of the Word and not merely hearers who delude themselves." (James 1:22)

The Application Bridge

1st ask: What did it mean to the original recipient?

2nd ask: What is the underlying timeless principle?

3rd ask: Where or how could I practice that principle?

Then: Write a sentence describing a project or action you will take to apply the truth.

MOST APPLICATIONS WILL FOCUS ON ONE OF THREE RELATIONSHIPS:

1. Relationship with God.
2. Relationship with Myself.
3. Relationship with Others.

Four Marks of a Good Application Project:

1. It's Personal
2. It's Practical
3. It's Possible
4. It's Provable

A Daily Time with God (Journal)

When reading a verse always use **SPACE** to help you identify what God wants you to know from the verse.

S- Is there a sin to confess?

P- Is there a promise to claim?

A- Is there an attitude to change?

C- Is there a command to obey?

E- Is there an example to follow?

Session Five

Four Habits of a Disciple (continued)

Habit #2

Prayer

“Rejoicing in hope, preserving in tribulation, devoted to prayer” (Romans 12:12)

Talking with God: How to Revitalize Your Prayer Life

I. Approach Prayer with the Right Attitude (Matthew 6:5-8)

- **Be Real**

“When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men..” (vs. 5)

Don't try to impress others.

Don't try to impress God.

- **Be Relaxed**

“But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you” (vs. 6)

- **Be Revealing**

“And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.” (vs. 7-8)

II. Use the Model Jesus Gave Us

Six Parts of Prayer (Taken from Matthew 6:9-15)

1. **Praise:** I begin by expressing my love to God

"... Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name." (vs. 9)

Two Kinds of Praise:

Adoration: Praising God for who He is

Thanksgiving: Praising God for what He has done

2. **Purpose:** I commit myself to God's purpose and will for my life.

"Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." (v. 10)

Pray for God's will to be done in my life, family, church, ministry, job, future, relationships, nation, etc.

"Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship." (Romans 12:1)

3. **Provision:** I ask God to meet my needs.

"Give us today our daily bread..." (Matthew 6:11)

"And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19)

"He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?" (Romans 8:32)

Key: Be specific

Record your requests with the promises you are claiming from the Bible and expect answers.

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God." (Philippians 4:6)

4. Pardon: I ask God to forgive my sins.

“And forgive us our debts...” (Matthew 6:12)

5. People: I pray for others.

“... as we have forgiven our debtors.” (Matthew 6:12)

“... I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions, and thanksgiving, be made on behalf of all men.” (1 Timothy 2:1)

If you want to know how to pray for others, study Paul's prayers for others-
Ephesians 1:15-19, Colossians 1:3-12, 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

Make a prayer list of people for whom you want to pray. You might pray for different people on different days of the week.

6. Protection: I ask for spiritual protection.

“And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil...” (Matthew 6:13)

Believers face a spiritual battle every day. Satan wants to defeat you through temptation and fear. By praying for protection, you will have the confidence to face every situation during the day.

“... because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.” (1 John 4:4)

Habit #3

Tithing

“On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper...”
(1 Corinthians 16:2)

Giving Reveals My Spiritual Maturity

“But just as you abound in everything, in faith and utterance and knowledge and in all earnestness... see that you abound in this gracious work also.” (2 Corinthians 8:7)

Key Bible Words Mentioned:

Believe: 140

Love: 304

Pray: 286

Giving/Tithing is mentioned 637 times in the Scriptures. If God said something one time, you would consider it to be of great importance. Obviously, we can surmise that **giving** is of **major importance** to God.

Why God Wants Me to Give (Seven Benefits to My Life)

1. **Giving** makes me more like the character of God

“God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son...” (John 3:16)

2. **Giving** draws me closer to God

“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21)

3. **Giving** is the antidote to materialism.

“Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready

to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.” (1 Timothy 6:17-19)

4. **Giving** strengthens my faith.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding... Honor the Lord from your wealth and from the first of all your produce; So your barns will be filled with plenty and your vats will overflow with new wine.” (Proverbs 3:5,9,10)

“Give and it will be given to you... For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.” (Luke 6:38)

5. **Giving** is an investment for eternity

“Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.” (1 Timothy 6:18-19)

6. **Giving** blesses me in return

“He who is generous will be blessed...” (Proverbs 22:9)

“The generous man will be prosperous, and he who waters will himself be watered.” (Proverbs 11:25)

7. **Giving** makes me happy

(Jesus) “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35)

“Then the people rejoiced because they had offered so willingly, for they made their offering to the Lord with a whole.” (1 Chronicles 29:9)

What the Bible Teaches about Tithing:

1. What is tithing? “Tithe” means “a tenth part.”
2. What is the difference between a “tithe” and an “offering”.
 - A “tithe” is giving 10% of my gross income.
 - An “offering” is anything I give in addition to my tithe.
3. Is tithing a New Testament principle?
 - Tithing was initiated before the Old Testament Law.

“And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High. He blessed him and said, “Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.” He gave him a tenth of all.” (Genesis 14:18-20)

- More is required under grace than under law.

Why should I tithe? (Eight reasons from God’s Word)

1. Because God commanded it.

“Thus all the tithe of the land... is the Lord’s; it is holy to the Lord.” (Leviticus 27:30)

2. Because Jesus commended it.

“... for you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law; Justice and mercy and faithfulness; But these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.” (Matthew 23:23)

3. Tithing demonstrates that God has first place in my life.

“... the tithe of your grain, your new wine, your oil, and the first born of your herd and your flock, so that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always.” (Deuteronomy 14: 23)

4. Tithing reminds me that everything was given to me by God!

“But you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth...” (Deuteronomy 8:18)

5. Tithing expresses my gratitude.

“What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits toward me?” (Psalms 116:12)

“Each of you should bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you.” (Deuteronomy 16:17)

6. God says that refusing to tithe is stealing from Him.

“Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing me! But you say, “How have we robbed you?” In tithes and offerings...Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse...” (Malachi 3:8-10)

7. Tithing gives God a chance to prove He exists and wants to bless you!

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this”, says the Lord of host, “if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.” (Malachi 3:10)

8. Tithing proves that I really love Him.

“(Jesus) If you love Me, you will keep my commandments.” (John 14:15)

“but just as you abound in everything, in faith and utterance and knowledge and in all earnestness and in the love we inspired in you, see that you abound in this gracious work also (giving).” (2 Corinthians 8:7b-8)

What should I tithe?

The first part of what I earn, not the leftovers.

“Honor the lord from your wealth and from the first of all your produce; so your barns will be filled with plenty and your vats will overflow with new wine” (Proverbs 3:9-10)

Where should I give my tithe?

Where I worship

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse...” (Malachi 3:10)

When should I tithe?

On Sunday

“On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper...” (1 Corinthians 16:2)

How to Remember

1. Keep a Ledger Book- Account #1: My Tithe
2. Use weekly envelopes
3. Teach your children to tithe

Giving with the Right Attitudes

1. Give willingly

“For if the readiness is present, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have.” (2 Corinthians 8:12)

“Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion...” (2 Corinthians 9:7a)

2. Give joyfully

“For God loves a cheerful giver!” (2 Corinthians 9:7b)

3. Give sacrificially

“For I testified that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord, begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the Saints” (2 Corinthians 8:3-4)

4. Give generously

“Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully” (2 Corinthians 9:6)

The Key to Giving

“... THEY FIRST GAVE THEMSELVES TO THE LORD...”

2 Corinthians 8:5

Habit #4

Fellowship

“Not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another...” (Hebrews 10:25)

Fellowship means participating in God's family.

Why is fellowship so important?

1. I belong in God's family with other believers.

“So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.” (Romans 12:5)

“The Christian who is not committed to a group of other believers for praying, sharing, and serving, so that he is known, as he knows others, is not an obedient Christian period he is not in the will of God. However vocal he may be in his theology; he is not obeying the Lord.”-Dr.Ray Ortland

2. I need encouragement to grow spiritually.

“Two are better than one... for if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up... and if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart.” (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

3. I need accountability to grow spiritually.

“Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.” (Proverbs 27:17)

“But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called “today” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.” (Hebrews 3:13)

4. Christ is present when we fellowship together.

“For where two or three have gathered in My name, I am there in their midst.” (Matthew 18:20)

5. There is power when people pray together.

“Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven.”(Matthew 18:19)

6. Fellowship is a witness to the world.

“That they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in you, that they may also be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.”(John 17:21)

*“By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”
(John 13:35)*

7. I am obligated to every other Christian!

“As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” (1 Peter 4:10)

“And there are varieties of ministries and the same Lord... now you are Christ’s body, and individually members of it.” (1 Corinthians 12:5, 27)

How can a large church maintain close friendships?

Every member needs to be part of a Life Group or small group.

“And every day, in the temple and from house to house...” (Acts 5:42)

Two Types of Church Meetings

- Large Group
- Small group

“also greet the church that is in their house” (Romans 16:5)

(Also see: Acts 2:26, 8:3, 16:40, 20:20; 1 Cor. 16:19; Col. 4:15)

What happens in our Life Group?

Acts 2:42-47

1. Bible Study

“They devoted themselves to the apostle’s teaching...”

2. Fellowship

“and to the fellowship”

3. Communion
“and to the breaking of bread”
4. Prayer
“and to prayer”
5. Support
“they gave to anyone as he had a need”
6. Special events
“they ate together with glad and sincere hearts”
7. Praising
“praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people”
8. Outreach
“And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved”

Session Six

Developing a Disciple’s Heart

Ministry: Definition: Greek “diakonos” means “to serve”. Therefore...

**Ministry is using whatever God has given me
to serve Him and the needs of others.**

We minister in three directions:

- To the Lord.
“While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” (Acts 13:2)
- To other believers
“For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown towards His name, in having ministered and instill ministering to the Saints.” (Hebrews 6:10)
- To unbelievers

“You are the salt of the earth; But if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.”(Matthew 5:13)

We minister to three areas of need:

- To people's physical needs.

“(God’s says) ‘for I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; Naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me’... And I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.” (Matthew 25:35-36, 40)

- To people's emotional needs.

“admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.” (1 Thessalonians 5:14)

- To people's spiritual needs.

“Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.” (2 Corinthians 5:18)

The Purpose of Ministry:

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired.” (1 Corinthians 12:4-6; 18)

- God wants to use me to build up His body.

The Priority of Ministry (Why should I be interested?)

1. I've been created for ministry.

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10)

2. I've been saved for ministry.

“Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity.” (2 Timothy 1:9)

3. I've been called to ministry.

“But when God, who had set me apart even from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, was pleased.” (Galatians 1:15)

“Therefore I... implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling which you have been called.” (Ephesians 4:1)

A life changing truth: My primary identity:

I am a minister of Jesus Christ.

4. I've been gifted for ministry.

“As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” (1 Peter 4:10)

5. I've been authorized for ministry.

“(Jesus said) All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples...” (Matthew 28:18-19)

6. I'm commanded to minister.

“Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:28)

7. I'm to be prepared for ministry.

“And He gave... pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:11-12)

8. The body of Christ needs my ministry.

“Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.” (1 Corinthians 12:27)

Ministry always functions in the context of the church family.

“Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said... the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.” (Matthew 9:36-38)

9. I am accountable for my ministry.

“So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.” (Romans 14:12)

The Parable of the Talents- Matthew 25:14-30

10. I will be rewarded for my ministry.

“Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.”(Colossians 3:23-24)

Understanding the Reproducing Process

- **Reproduce:** 1. To produce an image or copy 2. To recreate
- **Attitude of a Reproducer:** A willingness to pour our life into another person and share our life with him. A desire to live for the next generation.
- **Action of a Reproducer:** To step into another’s life and develop that person as if he had to take your place in life.

Why reproduce?

1. To “stir up the gift of God” in others.

“For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.” (2 Timothy 1:6)

2. To support those already serving.

“Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor.” (Ecclesiastes 4:9)

3. To better serve each other.

“Contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.” (Romans 12:13)

4. To grow the church spiritually and numerically.

“From whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.” (Ephesians 4:16)

5. To bring glory to God.

“My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.” (John 15:8)

Who should be a reproducer?

Every Born Again Christian

(John 15:1-4)

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vine dresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; And every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.” (John 15:1-4)

Who can reproduce reproducers?

Those who abide in Christ and His words. (John 15:5, 7)

“I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing... if you abide in Me and My words abide in you, you can ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.” (John 15:5-7)

Reproducers need more elimination from their lives to have more concentration in their lives.

Session Seven

Discovering My Ministry

Pursuing a Passion for the Lost

Six Truths About Sharing Your Faith

Truth #1 – It's simple

- A. It's simply speaking those things which you have seen and heard.

“For we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.” (Acts 4:20)

*“... I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you;”
(Acts 26:16)*

- B. It's simply being a witness to what you have experienced.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; And you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

“This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses.” (Acts 2:32)

“This one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself...” (1 John 5:10)

Principle:

You don't have to possess a degree in fishology to fish!

Truth #2 – It's seeking

- A. Jesus is a seeker.

“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” (Luke 19:10)

- B. Satan is a seeker.

“Be of sober spirit, be on alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.” (1 Peter 5:8)

C. Finders are seekers.

“Seek, and you will find...” (Matthew 7:7)

Principle:

You won't catch fish if you don't wet a line.

Truth #3- It's Sowing

A. The Lord of the Harvest

1. Jesus was a sower.

“And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, “Behold, the sower went out to sow... Jesus presented another parable to them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field... He presented another parable to them saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field... and He said, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man...” (Matthew 13:3,24,31,37)

2. Jesus sowed the Word of God.

“Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God.” (Luke 8:11)

B. The Law of the Harvest

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap... let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.” (Galatians 6:7,9)

- Law #1- You reap what you sow.
- Law #2- You reap later than you sow.
- Law #3- You reap more than you sow.

Principle:

All farmers know that the seed must go in before the crops come out!

Truth #4- It's Smart

A soul-winner is wise.

"And he who is wise wins souls." (Proverbs 11:30)

Principle:

Soul-Winners are shining stars!

Truth #5- It's Satisfying

Great fulfillment is found in doing God's Will

"Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, 'Rabbi, eat.' But He said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples were saying to one another, 'No one brought Him anything to eat, did he?' Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work. 'Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest?' Behold, I say to you, 'lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest. Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life; so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.'" (John 4:31-36)

Principle:

The soul-winning reaction: SATISFACTION!

Truth #6- It's Supernatural

A. The Masterplan of Salvation: is the Father's.

"...from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain." (Revelation 13:8)

B. The Magnet of Salvation: is the Son's.

"And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself." (John 12:32)

C. The Mover of Salvation: is the Spirit.

“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth...” (John 16:13)

D. The Miracle of Salvation: is the New Birth.

“Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.’ (John 3:3)

Principle:

Salvation is naturally supernatural!

DEVELOPING A SOUL-CONSCIOUSNESS

“You have one business on earth- to save souls.” -John Wesley

“You are a Christian today because somebody cared. Now it’s your turn.” -Warren Wiersbe

We must have eyes to see people as Jesus sees them. We must have a heart of compassion to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with the world we live in. We must ask unbelievers these questions:

Five Questions to Ask Unbelievers:

1. Are you a Christian?

“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.” (Acts 11:26)

Don’t stop there!

Most people do not know what a real Christian is. Christianity is equated with...

- Church membership
- Baptism
- Growing up in church
- Reading the Bible
- Being a good person
- Praying
- Believing that there is a God

A Christian is a disciple: the words are synonymous!

2. What happens to a person when they die? (4 questions)

What? Death is the most certain experience in life.

*“An inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgement”
(Hebrews 9:27)*

When? Death is the most uncertain experience in life.

“Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.” (James 4:14)

How? Death is the most uncomfortable experience in life.

“Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God... So Peter seeing him said to Jesus, ‘Lord, and what about this man?’... Jesus said to him, ‘if I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me!’” (John 21:19, 21-22)

Where? Death is the most important experience in life.

We only have two choices...

Choice 1: Heaven- *“In My Father's house are many dwelling places; If it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.” (John 14:2)*

Choice 2: Hell- *“And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.” (Revelation 20:15)*

3. Do you know what it means to be saved?

A. They must first understand that they are lost.

“All of us like sheep have gone astray...” (Isaiah 53:6)

B. They must understand what they are saved from.

*“... and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”
(Matthew 1:21)*

C. They must understand what sin is.

I. It's going our own way.

“... Each of us has turned to his own way...” (Isaiah 53:6)

II. It's missing the mark.

"There is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God; All have turned aside, together they have become useless..." (Romans 3:11-12)

Definitions:

Sin- Falling away from or missing the mark that God intended

Saved- Delivered or rescued from our sin

4. Do you believe Jesus is coming again?

According to the Bible, His return is...

A. Unquestioned by angels.

"... behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. They also said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? Then Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.'" (Acts 1:10-11)

B. Unexpected by unbelievers.

"... and saying, 'Where is the promise of his coming? Forever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation... but the day of the Lord will come like a thief..." (2 Peter 3:4)

C. Unpredictable by any.

"But of that day and our no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone." (Matthew 24:36)

D. Unlimited in scope.

"So that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:10-11)

5. If you were to die tonight where would you spend eternity?

Remember, there are only two choices: Heaven or Hell.

A. If the answer is hell, ask: "Would you like to receive Jesus and go to heaven?"

B. If the answer is heaven, ask: "If you were standing at the gates of heaven and God asked you, 'Why should I let you into my kingdom?' How would you respond?"

- Do not accept any substitutes as listed under "Are you a Christian?"
- Accept only the fact that they have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

How to Share Your Personal Testimony:

Four Points to Keep in Mind:

1. Your testimony should be clear.
2. Your testimony should be concise.
3. Your testimony should be positive.
4. Your testimony should be up to date.

Four Things to Avoid:

1. Avoid boasting of pre-Christian sin.
2. Avoid using religious words and terminology.
3. Avoid attempting to give them the whole Bible all at one time.
4. Avoid presentation being in "sermon form".

Four Facts to Include:

Using the example of the Apostle Paul.

1. What my life was like before I received Christ. (Acts 26:4-5, 9-11)
2. How I realized my need for Christ. (Acts 26:12-14)
3. How I received Christ and became a Christian. (Acts 26:15-18)
4. How Christ has helped me and is helping me day by day. (Acts 26:19-23)

The Holy Spirit

1. The Holy Spirit Is the third person of the Trinity (the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).

John 14:16; Matthew 3:16-17

2. He is the promise of the Father.

Luke 24:49

3. The Holy Spirit is essential for salvation.

John 6:44

A. Sin (John 16:8-11)

B. Righteousness

C. Judgment

4. The Holy Spirit is essential in the life of the believer.

A. Prayer (Romans 8:26-27)

B. Bible Reading (1 Corinthians 2:10-16)

C. Guides us into all truth (John 15:26-27; 16:13)

5. The Holy Spirit is essential for ministry (Matthew 4:1; Luke 4:1)

6. The Holy Spirit Is essential for eternal security. (Romans 8:14-16)

7. The Holy Spirit is essential for gifting the saint's for service.

(1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:11-16; Romans 12:3-8)

8. The Holy Spirit is essential for the fruit of the believer. (Galatians 5:22-23)

9. The Holy Spirit is essential for the love of God to be poured out in us. (Romans 5:5)

10. The Holy Spirit is essential for being refilled daily. (Ephesians 5:18)

God (The Father) through the Holy Spirit, is living the life of Christ in and through

YOU!!!!

Friend,

You have made it through FIRST STEPS!

You are at an exciting crossroads in your life at Journey Fellowship Baptist Church.

You have a better understanding of whom and what we are as a ministry.

You have a better understanding of how God has gifted you to serve in His Kingdom.

You have Lord willing, a greater appetite for the things of God and a life with Him.

Now what?

Around here there is a phrase that sums up the awesome adventure before you:

Everything is at stake... so... whatever it takes.

Please do not leave this class without committing yourself to another Life Group which you can continue to grow and serve our great God. Journey Fellowship has been blessed to make an incredible difference in the lives of hundreds of people in this community and around the world, yet the truth is, we have only scratched the surface! There is so much more for us to do!

And do you know how this church has made such a difference?

A whole bunch of fired up, fully devoted 'YOU'S' and 'ME'S' have committed to do whatever it takes to become better Christians in our homes, in the church and in the world. We are thrilled God has brought you into the Journey Fellowship family and for the privilege to labor alongside you in the greatest opportunity on earth... serving Almighty God!

If we can assist you in finding the right Life Group... in finding the right place for you to serve or in navigating your way around this blessed campus, please contact me at

770-537-2300.

Sincerely,

John Lemmings, Pastor