



Friendship Baptist Church

Rev. Kenneth C. Curry, Jr., Senior Pastor



New Member's Class Booklet

“...You are a member of God's own family...
and you belong in God's household with every other Christian.”
Ephesians 2:19 (Living Bible)

Name _____

Student Copy

7/2020

Welcome to the New Member's Class

We're thrilled you've chosen to take this class. We view this as a big step towards spiritual maturity. This class is designed to help you better understand:

- God's desire for you
- Ways to express your faith
- Why our church exists
- How you fit into the purposes of the church
- What our church believes
- What are your responsibilities as a new member

Discovering Church Membership is divided into eight sessions.

The Basis For This Class

"...You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family" (Ephesians 2:19 NLT).

Key Truths:

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

The Membership Commitment

is a commitment to _____ and to _____.

"Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other (Romans 12:4-5 NLT).

Why do we have a commitment?

We become what we are _____.

The Membership Commitment introduces us to

eight areas:

These things unite us:

What We Believe (Foundations of our Faith)
Our Salvation (What God had done for us)
Our Statement, Mission & Values (Why we exist as a church)
Our Structure (When, where, and how we fulfill our purpose)
Our Statement of Faith (What we believe)
Stewardship (Our responsibility)
Godly Disciplines (How to live victoriously)

Class Outline

Session One:	What We Believe	Page 4
Session Two:	Our Salvation	Page 10
Session Three:	Importance of Being Baptized & The Lord's Supper	Page 17
Session Four:	Friendship Vision, Mission Statements & Values	Page 24
Session Five:	Our Statement of Faith & Family Structure	Page 32
Session Six:	What it Means to be a Member	Page 40
Session Seven:	Stewardship	Page 44
Session Eight:	Godly Disciplines	Page 48
	What Now?	Page 55
	Map of Friendship Campus	Page 56
	Apostle's Creed	Page 57
	Note Page	Page 58
	Answer Key	Page 59

Scriptures References are taken from the following Bible translations:

NLT New Living Translation
LB Living Bible
GN Good News Bible
Ph Phillips Bible

Session One

What We Believe

“So you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have been made like Him. There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female.
For you are all Christians—you are one in Christ Jesus.”

(Galatians 3:26-28 NLT)

What We Believe

1. The Bible

Who wrote the Bible? From the human standpoint, the Bible was written by no less than thirty-six authors over a period of about sixteen hundred years. But the important thing to remember is that these men wrote under the direct control of God. God guided them in writing the very words. This is what is meant by inspiration (2 Peter 1:21 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

The Bible is the Word of God. It is not enough to say that the Bible contains the Word of God. It is also important to remember the Bible is the only written revelation which God has given to man.

Although the Bible is made up of sixty-six books, yet it has one main subject. Christ is the grand theme of Scripture. The Old Testament contains many predictions, or prophecies, concerning Christ. The New Testament tells of His coming.

This book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinner and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be saved, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter. Here Paradise is restored, Heaven opened, and the gates of Hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject and the glory of God its end. Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It will reward the greatest labor, and condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents. It is the Book of Books—God's Book—the revelation of God to man.

2. God

No greater subject can occupy the mind than the study of God and of man's relationship to Him.

Existence of God

The Bible does not seek to prove the existence of God. The fact that there is a God is assumed throughout the Scriptures. For example, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Gen. 1:1). "The man who says that there is no God is called a fool (Psalm 14:1).

Nature of God

God is a spirit (John 4:24). This means that God does not have a body. He is invisible. However, He can reveal Himself to man.

God is a person. Personal names are used in reference to Him (Exodus 3:14, Matthew 11:25). Personal characteristics are ascribed to Him, such as knowledge (Isaiah 55:9-10); emotions (Genesis 6:6); will (Joshua 3:10).

Unity of God

Scripture clearly teaches that there is one God (I Timothy 2:5). The false teaching that there are many gods is contrary to reason.

Trinity

The Bible teaches not only there is one God, but also there are three persons in the Godhead, --Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is a mystery to the human mind, but although it cannot be understood, it can be believed because God's Word says it is so. The word, Trinity is not found in the Bible, but the truth is found in the following passages.

1. Baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3:16-17)
2. The great commission (Matthew 28:19)
3. The benediction (2 Corinthians 13:14)

The Father is called God (Romans 1:7). The Son is called God (Hebrews 1:8). The Holy Spirit is called God (Acts 5:3-4).

Attributes of God

1. God is omnipresent. This means that God is present everywhere at the same time (Jeremiah 23:24).
2. God is omniscient. In other words, He knows all things. He knows every thought and deed of man (Proverbs 15:3). He knows everything that takes place in nature, including even the death of a sparrow (Matthew 10:29).
3. God is omnipotent. He has all power. He created the universe, and now controls it by His power. There is nothing that He cannot do (Matthew 19:26).
4. God is eternal. He never had a beginning, and He will never cease to exist (Psalm 90:2).
5. God is unchangeable (Malachi 3:6).
6. God is holy. He is absolutely pure and sinless. He hates sin and loves goodness (Proverbs 15:9, 26).

7. God is just. Everything He does is right and fair. He fulfills all His promises (Psalm 119:137).

3. Christ

The central theme of the Bible is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Deity of Christ. The deity of Christ means that Christ is God. Scriptures clearly teaches this important fact in the following ways. His pre-existence (John 17:5). His omnipresence (Matthew 28:20). His omnipotence (Revelation 1:18). His omniscience (John 21:7).

His Incarnation. By incarnation of Christ we mean His coming into the world as a man. This coming was predicted in the Old Testament (Isaiah 7:14). His birth was recorded in Scripture and was different from all other births. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35). He was born of a virgin (Matthew 1:23).

His Work.

1. **His death** was necessary (John 3:14). It was a part of God's eternal purpose (Hebrews 10:7). It was necessary to fulfill Old Testament prophecies (Isaiah 53:5).
2. **His resurrection.** The resurrection of Christ was necessary to fulfill prophecy, to complete the work of the Cross (Romans 4:25), and to enable Christ to undertake His present work in heaven. Christ resurrected body was real. It was not a spirit (Luke 24:39). After His resurrection, Christ appeared to His followers at least ten times. More than 500 reliable witnesses saw Him after the resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:6).
3. **His ascension.** At the end of His ministry on earth, Christ was carried up into heaven (Mark 16:7, 19; Acts 1:9). He ascended so that He might enter into His reward (John 17:5), and continue His ministry for His people.

4. Salvation

Salvation is God's free gift to us but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sins by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith.

(Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 14:6; 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1)

5. Man

If we want to know the truth about man, we must turn to the Bible. "Truth is what God says about a thing." The Bible tells us about man's creation, nature, relation to other beings, his fall and destiny.

The Bible teaches man exists as a three-fold being: body, soul and spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:23). While it is hard for us to distinguish between soul and spirit, since both are in contrast with the physical body, the Bible shows that there is a difference. The soul distinguishes a living being from a dead one, but the spirit distinguishes a man from an animal. The spirit of man makes it possible for him to have communion or fellowship with God.

God created man with a free will. There are other beings in the universe which God has created. These are angels or spirits. They do not have human body or soul. They were also created to serve God, but since they have a free will, some of them fell into the sin of disobedience.

Just as the Bible tells us of man's origin, as coming from the hand of God and of man's shameful fall and the consequent separation from God; so it faithfully tells us that every man, woman and child will someday stand before God as their Judge. God will absolutely hold every person responsible for everything he has done. This life is primarily a preparation for the next one. Man does not die like the animals. Man's spirit must go to God, his Creator and Judge.

6. Sin

No one can read the Bible without realizing that a great deal of attention is given to the subject of sin, its cause and cure. Sin in the Bible refers to anything short of God's perfection (see Romans 3:23).

Sin is also spoken of in the Bible in the following ways.

1. Breaking the law of God (Romans 5:13)
2. Rebellion against God, or lawlessness (1 John 3:4)
3. Moral impurity (Psalm 32:5)
4. Evil thoughts are sinful, as well as evil deeds (Matthew 5:28)

Penalty of Sin. "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). God has pronounced the penalty of sin as being death. This means spiritual death and physical death.

Remedy for Sin. God has provided a remedy so that men do not need to suffer everlasting punishment for their sins. He sent His Son into the world to provide a way of escape for man (John 3:16). He was the only sinless man who ever lived. On the Cross of Calvary, He willingly suffered the penalty of sin, and satisfied all God's holy demands.

When a person trusts in Christ, he is saved from the penalty and power of sin. This does not mean that he no longer commits sin but it does mean that all his

sins, past, present and future have been forgiven, that he will never be judged for them, and that he has power to live for God instead of for the pleasures of sin.

7. About Eternal Security

Because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the true believer is secure in that salvation is for eternity. If you have been genuinely saved, you cannot "lose" it.

Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives us this security.

(John 10:29; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25, 10:10, 14; 1 Peter 1:3-5)

8. About Eternity

People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell! To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence.

(John 3:16; John 14:17; Romans 6:23; Romans 8:17-18; Revelations 20:15; 1 Corinthians 2:7-9)

Session Two

Our Salvation

“So you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have been made like Him. There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female.
For you are all Christians—you are one in Christ Jesus.”
(Galatians 3:26-28 NLT)

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 for their lives. The most basic question a person can ask is, "*What is the meaning of life?*"

Everyone wants to be happy. People try many ways:

Some look for happiness by **acquiring possessions.**

Some look for happiness by **experiencing pleasure.**

Some look for happiness by **gaining prestige and power.**

But real happiness comes from understanding my:

I. Why Am I Here?

1. God made me to _____ me!

"Long ago the Lord said...I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself" (Jeremiah 31:3 NLT)!

"Even before the world was made, God had already chosen us to be His through our union with Christ ... because of His love, God had already decided that through Jesus Christ He would make us His children - this was God's pleasure and purpose" (Ephesians 1:4 GN).

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

"So God created human beings, making them in his image. He blessed them, and said, ... live all over the earth and bring it under control. I am putting you in charge" (Gen. 1:27-28 LB).

"God richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment (1 Tim 6:17).

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)

Life & Peace
(Romans 8:6)

Help with Weakness
(Romans 8:26)

Purpose
(Romans 8:28)

Confidence
(Romans 8:31)

Security
(Romans 8:39)

Power & Strength
(Philippians 4:13)

Fulfillment
(Philippians 4:19)

Freedom
(John 8:32, 36)

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

Jesus said, "I have come in order that you might have life – life in all it's fullness" (John 10:10)!

If this is true, why aren't most people happy?

II. What's The Problem?

Man has a natural desire to _____ and to ignore God's principles for living.

- "Look out for #1. Do your own thing."
- "I want what I want, when I want it."
- "If it feels good, do it - regardless of what God says about it."
- "It's my life and I'll do what I please!"

1) THE BIBLE CALLS THIS ATTITUDE: _____

Sin is a biblical word that means "to miss the mark."

Key word: **REBELLION**

"All of us have strayed away like sheep. We have left God's path to follow our own..." (Isaiah 53:6 NLT).

"If we say we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and refusing to accept the truth" (1 John 1:8 NLT).

Sin breaks our close relationship with God. Sin separates us from God and causes us to live our lives outside of His will.

"But there is a problem—your sins have cut you off from God. Because of your sin, He has turned away and will not listen anymore" (Isaiah 59:2 NLT).

"For all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious standard" (Romans 3:23 NLT).

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

When we have problems, we often try many different ways of coping **before** turning to God.

"There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death"
(Proverbs 16:25 NLT).

Even when we know that our deepest need is God, we often trust wrong ways of getting to know Him. It looks like this ...

YOU

_____ separated from _____

GOD

All the best attempts in the world won't get you to where you need to be. Many people say things like:

- "My mother was a Christian so..."
- "It doesn't matter what you believe, just be sincere."
- "I'll give up all my bad habits."
- "I'll work really hard and earn it."
- "I'll be religious and go to church."

SIN/DEATH

The result of these attempts is worthless. The Bible teaches us that our attempts lead to **DEATH**. A relationship with God is NOT based on anything you **DO**.

"There are ways that SEEM right to man, but they only end in death"
(Proverbs 16:25).

When our relationship to God is not right, it causes PROBLEMS in every area of our lives: friendships, school, parents, jobs, finances, etc.

III. What's the solution?

"Jesus said, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me" (John 14:6 NLT)!

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 through a person—that person is Jesus Christ.

**JESUS HAS ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF
YOUR SIN PROBLEM WHEN HE DIED ON THE CROSS!**

YOU



GOD

**Jesus
Sin/Death**

WHY DID GOD SEND JESUS TO DIE IN YOUR PLACE?

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

“God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were still separated from God, by sin, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

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.

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

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

“But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners” (Romans 5:8 NLT).

“For there is only one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and people. He is the man Christ Jesus” (1Timothy 2:5 NLT).

IV. What does God want me to do?

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

"But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong" (1 John 1:9 NLT).

2. _____ that Jesus died to pay for your sins and that He rose again, and is alive today.

"For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9 NLT).

"There is salvation in no one else! There is no other name in all of heaven for people to call on to save them" (Acts 4:12 NLT).

3. _____ God's free gift of salvation, don't try to earn it.

"God saved you by His special favor when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it" (Ephesians 2:8-9 NLT).

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

4. _____ Jesus Christ to come into your life and be the Director ("Lord") of your life.

"But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn! This is not a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan—this rebirth comes from God (John 1:12-13 NLT).

"Look! Here I stand at the door and knock. If you hear Me calling and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal as friends" (Revelation 3:20 NLT).

IF YOU BELIEVE YOU _____!

You Can Take These Steps By Praying A Simple Prayer of Commitment to God. IT MIGHT BE SOMETHING LIKE THIS:

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for making me and loving me, even when I've ignored you and gone my own way. I realize I need you in my life and I'm sorry for my sins. I ask you to forgive me. Thank you for dying on the cross for me. Please help me to understand it more. As much as I know how, I want to follow you from now on. Please come into my life and make me a new person inside. I accept your gift of salvation. Please help me to grow as a Christian.

In Jesus Name, Amen.

"For anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved"
(Romans 10:13).

God has NO Grandchildren, only children.
Each person must make his or her own
commitment to Christ.

After you make a commitment to trust Jesus, you enter into a life-long relationship with God as a Christian. A Christian (Christ's own) then attempts to learn more about:

- ♥ God
- ♥ His character
- ♥ His desires for your life and lifestyle

Session Three

Importance of Being Baptized & The Lord's Supper

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this; I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

(Matthew 28:19-20 NLT)

"For whenever you eat the bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes back."

(1 Corinthians 11:26 NLT)

The Importance of Being Baptized

I. Why should I be baptized?

1. To follow the example set by _____.

"One day Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and he was baptized by John in the Jordan River" (Mark 1:9 NLT).

2. Because Christ _____ it.

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this; I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20 NLT).

3. It demonstrates that I really am a _____.

"...became believers and were baptized" (Acts 18:8 NLT).

"And how can we be sure that we belong to him? By obeying his commandments" (1 John 2:3 NLT).

II. What is the meaning of baptism?

1. It illustrates Christ's _____ and resurrection.

"I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me—that Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, as the Scriptures said" (1 Corinthians 15:3-4 NLT).

"For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to a new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead" (Colossians 2:12 NLT).

2. It illustrates my _____ as a Christian.

"What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun" (2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT)!

"For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives" (Romans 6:4 NLT).

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 is an outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart.

"God saved you by his special favor when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it" (Ephesians 2:8-9 NLT).

3) Baptism is an outward sign of an _____ commitment.

III. Why be baptized by immersion?

1) Because _____ was baptized that way.

"After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and setting on him" (Matthew 3:16 NLT).

2) Every baptism in the _____ was by immersion.

(Example) "He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him" (Acts 8:38 NLT).

3) The word "Baptize" means to _____ water.

The Greek word *baptizo* means "to immerse or dip under water."

4) Immersion best symbolizes the _____ and RESURRECTION!

Many church founders of denominations agree:

Martin Luther..."I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed as the word imports and the mystery signifies."

John Calvin..."The word baptize signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church."

John Wesley... "Buried with Him, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church."

IV. Who should be baptized?

1) Every person who has _____ in Christ.

“Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church—about 3,000 in all” (Acts 2:41 NLT).

“Then Simon himself believed and was baptized...” (Acts 8:13 NLT)

“But now the people believed Philip’s message of Good News concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. As a result, many men and women were baptized” (Acts 8:12 NLT).

Concerning children’s baptism, at Friendship, we wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them.

V. When should I be baptized?

1) As soon as you have _____.

“Those who believed...were baptized...that day” (Acts 2:41 NLT)!

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are “perfect” that day will never come.

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. Young children who wish to be baptized are asked to attend the pre-baptism class on the 4th Sunday during 11:30am service.

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.

Will I have to say anything?

No. The Minister who will be baptizing you will talk with you before baptism. It will not be necessary for you to say anything at the actual baptism ceremony.

Special needs?

If you have special needs let the Deaconess who contacts you know.

We baptize on 4th Sundays during the 11:30am Worship Service. On the Sunday that you will be baptized, please plan to arrive by 10:30am and meet with the Deaconess in the back of the sanctuary.

While baptism is a one-time experience, Jesus gave us another action that is intended to continue throughout the life of the Christian. It's called the Lord's Supper, and it's a powerful way for Christians to remember and celebrate what God did for us in the life of Jesus.

The Lord's Supper

Jesus never asked His disciples to remember His birth. But He did instruct them to remember His death and resurrection. He gave the church two visible symbols (called "ordinances") as reminders of His death. These two ordinances are: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is an outward illustration that represents a great spiritual truth for believers.

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

1. It is a _____.

"The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread..." (vs.23)

2. It is a _____.

"...and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, This is my body, which is for you; eat it in remembrance of me." (vs.24)

3. It is a _____.

"In the same way, He took the cup, saying. This cup is the new covenant in my blood; drink it to remember me." (vs. 25)

4. It is a _____.

"For whenever you eat the bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes back." (vs. 26)

II. Who should take the Lord's Supper?

Only those who are already _____ (Mark 14:22-26)

"For if you eat the bread or drink the cup unworthily, not honoring the body of Christ, you are eating and drinking God's judgment upon yourself" (1 Corinthians 11:29 NLT).

III. How do I prepare myself for the Lord's Supper?

"So if anyone eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord unworthily, that person is guilty of sinning against the body and the blood of the Lord. That is why you should examine yourself before eating the bread and drinking from the cup... (1 Corinthians 11:27-28 NLT)

By...

1. **Self-examination**

"Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord" (1 Corinthians 11:27).

2. **Confessing my sins**

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us of our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

3. **Recommitment**

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God -- this is your spiritual act of worship" (Romans 12:1).

4. **Restoring Relationships**

"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift" (Matthew 5:23-24).

IV. 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. He instituted it on a Thursday night. Since it is a supper, it may seem more appropriate to observe it at any evening service.

Session Four

Friendship Vision, Mission Statements & Values

"Let there be real harmony among you so there won't be
any split in the church. I plead with you to be of
one mind, united in thought and purpose"
(1 Corinthians 1:10 LB)

Our Vision Statement

Discipleship-Evangelism-Service

Friendship will be a Discipling, Evangelizing, and Serving Fellowship of Believers.

Our Mission Statement

Why We Exist As A Church

The purpose of our church is summarized in the following statement:

Friendship Baptist Church is a church where Christ is magnified through individually and collectively presenting ourselves to Christ as a living and holy offering (Romans 12:1-2, Colossians 3:17):

We are **Bible Based** (Psalms 119:104-105)

The foundation for all that we believe and all that we do.

We are **Christ Centered** (Colossians 3:16)

Through the Word of Christ richly dwelling in us we are committed to witnessing, discipling, loving others and growing in Christ because of knowing Him.

We are **Accountable** (Colossians 3:12-21)

Having been chosen by God we shall strive for:

- excellence in our character (v12)
- excellence in our relationships (v13-14)
- excellence in our attitude (v15-16)
- excellence in our work (v17)
- excellence in our families (v18-21)

We are **Saved** to serve.

"We believe a great commitment to the great _____ and the great _____ will grow a great church!"

The Great Commandment: "Jesus said, Love the Lord your God with all your heart...soul...and mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and Prophets hang on these commandments" (Matthew 22:36-40).

The Great Commission: "Jesus said, Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20).

- To "Love God with all your heart" is WORSHIP
- To "Love your neighbor as yourself" is MINISTRY
- To "Go...make disciples" is EVANGELISM
- To "Baptize..." is to incorporate into FELLOWSHIP
- To "Teach them...all things" is DISCIPLESHIP

Our Values (How we fulfill our Vision & Mission):

- ❖ **We value *equipping*** believers for growth with the Word of God through Biblical teaching and preaching for application in our everyday lives.

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

"How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching" (Romans 10:14)?

- ❖ **We value *praying*** to God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, as a means to communicate with God on behalf of ourselves and others.

"... Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints..." (Ephesians 6:18)

"And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him" (1 John 5:14-15).

- ❖ **We value *ministering*** to the needs of members, non-members, believers and non-believers by fostering a strong community presence.

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me" (Matthew 25:35-36).

"... With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:2-3).

- ❖ **We value *sharing*** the Word of God and spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ to reach the unchurched and unsaved to change lives and win souls.

“And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:18-20).

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

- ❖ **We value *supporting*** the church and community with our finances, resources, and service, to strengthen the work of ministry.

“Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you” (Luke 6:38).

“The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work” (2 Corinthians 9:6-8).

“I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’” (Acts 20:33-35).

- ❖ **We value *nurturing*** a personal relationship with God and each other as a faith community by demonstrating the love of Christ in unity and fellowship.

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him” (Colossians 3:16-17).

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near" (Hebrews 10:24-25).

"...With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:2-3).

- ❖ **We value *expressing*** our love for God through sincere worship in our corporate gatherings and personal lives.

"But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:23-24).

"This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).

Friendship Church Exists:

1. To _____ God's Presence (worship)
2. To _____ God's Love (ministry)
3. To _____ God's Word (evangelism)
4. To _____ God's Family (fellowship)
5. To _____ God's People (discipleship)

I. We exist to celebrate God's Presence

Worship: _____

"Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only" (Matthew 4:10).

"...The Father seeks worshipers...and His worshipers must worship Him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:23-24).

To worship in spirit means to worship in _____.

To worship in love means to worship in _____.

Expressions of Worship:

Singing (Ephesians 5:19)
Commitment (Romans 12:1-2)
Praying (Psalm 95:6)
Hearing the Word (John 17:17)
Giving (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)
Baptism (Romans 6:3-4)
Meditating (Habakkuk 2:20)
Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

II. We Exist To Communicate God's Word

Evangelism: _____

"His intent was that through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known" (Ephesians 3:10).

"Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But who can ask Him to save them unless they believe in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells him" (Romans 10:13-14 LB)?

Why Our Church Must Never Stop Growing

1. Because _____

"The Lord is patient, not wanting anyone to perish, but wants everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9; 2 Corinthians 5:14; Luke 15:3-10; Matthew 9:12-13).

2. Because _____

"Go out into the country...and urge anyone you find to come in, so that My house will be full" (Luke 14:23 LB).

"...you will be my witnesses..." (Acts 1:8)

3. Because _____

"Under Christ's control, the whole Body is nourished...and grows as God wants it to grow" (Colossians 2:19 GN).

"Jesus said, 'I will build my church'" (Matthew 16:18).

Unbiblical excuses for not growing:

- God isn't interested in numbers.
- Our church wants quality not quantity.
- Large churches are impersonal.

We believe our church must grow _____ and _____ at the same time.

Larger we will _____ out to others.

Smaller we will _____ with each other.

"And the Good News of the Kingdom will be preached to the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and THEN the end will come" (Matthew 24:14).

III. We Exist To Educate God's People

Discipleship: _____

"Let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity..."
(Hebrews 6:1)

"Grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18).

"(God has given) ...some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so that the Body of Christ may be built up until we all...become mature...like Christ" (Ephesians 4:11-13).

IV. We Exist To Demonstrate God's Love

Ministry: _____

"By this shall all men know that you are my disciples—that you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

(See also 1 John 3:16-17; Matthew 25:34-40; Hebrews 13:16; Romans 12:13)

"Now God gives us many kinds of special abilities...and there are different kinds of service to God (ministry)... All of you together form the one Body of Christ and each of you is a separate and a necessary part of it"
(1 Corinthians 12:4-5, 27 LB).

At Friendship...

Every member is a _____

Every task is _____

Every member is a "10" in some _____

If you are looking for a place to serve God, listed below are the ministries we have available at Friendship. Pray and ask God where you should serve.

MINISTRIES AT FBC

Pastor Appointed Ministries

Deacons
Deaconess
Ministers Association
Mother's Ministry
Trustee Ministry

Administration Ministries

Guardian Angels Ministry
Bereavement Service Ministry
Healthcare Ministry

Celebration Arts Ministries

F.O.C.U.S. (Young Adult) Choir
Inspirational Voices Choir
Wrecking Crew Men's Choir
Voices of Friendship Choir
(3-11 years old)
Voices of Triumph Choir
(12-18 years old)
Mass Choir
Praise in Motion Dance Ministry

Christian Education & Discipleship

Couples Ministry
FBI (Friendship Bible Institute)
Men's Ministry
S.A.L.T. (Single Adults Living
Triumphantly)

CYAA (Children, Youth, Young Adults)

Children's Ministry
K-5 Scholarship Ministry
6-12 Grade Scholarship Ministry
Tutoring Ministry
Young Adult Ministry
Youth Ministry

Engagement Ministry

Usher Ministry
Greeters Ministry
Shepherd's Ministry

Scouting Ministry

Boy Scouts
Cub Scouts
Girl Scouts
Senior Girl Scouts

Outreach & Evangelism

Celebrate Recovery Ministry
Clothing Ministry
Food Distribution Ministry
Nursing Home Ministry
SOS Food Ministry

Prayer Posse Ministry

Early Morning Prayer
(Wednesdays at 6:30am)
Family Prayer Service
(Fridays before 1st Sunday 7:30-
8:30pm)
Sundays (7:30am-8:30am)
Noon Prayer Warriors
(Wednesdays at 12 noon)
Wednesday Evening Prayer
(Wednesdays Evenings 6:30pm-
7:30pm)

Session Five

Our Statement of Faith & Friendship's Family Structure

(How we are organized.)

"There is one Body and one Spirit...there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of us all..."
(Ephesians 4:4-6 1:10 LB)

"For God is not a God of disorder, but of peace...
Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way."
(1 Corinthians 14:33, 40)

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

What We Believe

- **In essential beliefs—we have unity.**

"There is one Body and one Spirit...there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of us all..." (Ephesians 4:4-6)

- **In non-essential beliefs—we have liberty.**

"Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters. Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master, he stands or falls. So then each of us will give an account of himself to God. So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God" (Romans 14:1, 14, 12, 22).

- **In all our beliefs—we show charity.**

"...If I hold in my mind not only all human knowledge but also the very secrets of God, and if I have the faith that can move mountains—but have no love, I amount to nothing at all" (1 Corinthians 13:2 Ph).

We believe:

1. That the Bible, composed of the Old and New Testaments, is the divinely inspired Word of God, the final and trustworthy authority for faith and practice.

It is to be interpreted responsibly under the guidance of the Holy Spirit within the community of faith. The Bible clearly reveals the essentials necessary for salvation and the basics of how to conduct our lives. It is the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which human conduct, creeds, and opinions shall be tried. (Deuteronomy 4:1-2; II Timothy 2:15, 3:16-17; II Peter 1:20-21)

2. That there is only one true and eternal God consisting of three co-equal persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

(Genesis 1:1; Deuteronomy 6:4; John 4:24; John 14:6-13; Galatians 4:6; 2 Peter 1:17; Psalm 2:7ff; Isaiah 7:14; John 1:1-18; Hebrews 1:8; Psalm 51:11; 1 John 4:13; Acts 5:3,4)

3. That God created humankind in the divine image. Through Adam's fall all became sinful, lost and condemned. Each human being by deliberate choice participates in sin and is in need of redemption through Christ. (Genesis 1:26-30;

Ephesians 2:1-22; Romans 1:19-32, 5:12-21)

4. That Jesus Christ is God's Son, fully divine and fully human, the eternal and pre-existent Word. By His death, Christ made full atonement for our sins, and by his resurrection showed Himself to be the Lord and giver of life to all who believe. (Hebrews 1:1-3, 4:14-15; John 1:1-3, 14)

5. That God offers forgiveness of sin and justification through faith in Christ Jesus apart from works. Such redemption is received by human individuals as God's gift upon repentance from sin and faith in Jesus Christ. Through Christ the believer becomes a new creation, whose mind and will are transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit from loving sin, to loving the Lord with all our heart, soul and mind, and loving all people as we love ourselves. (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 2:8-22; 1 John 1:6-2:11; Matthew 22:37-38)

6. That the Church is a community of faith consisting of regenerated believers with Christ as Lord. Such believers claim a personal relationship to God through Jesus Christ, are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, follow the Lord in believer's baptism, share in the Lord's Supper, gather regularly for worship, and covenant for mutual edification and care-giving. (Matthew 16:15-19; Romans 10:9-10; Acts 16:30-33; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Ephesians 1:22-23; Hebrews 10:23-25; 1 Corinthians 6:19)

7. That the Church is called to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ and God's reconciling grace in the power of the Holy Spirit, inviting persons to receive salvation and follow Christ as His disciples. As disciples, we seek justice for all persons and the reform of society. (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Galatians 3:26-28; James 1:27, 2:8)

8. That Jesus Christ will return visibly, at which time He will raise the dead and judge all people. Believers will enjoy eternal fellowship with God as they participate in the fullness of His eternal reign, while unbelievers will suffer eternal separation from God. (Matthew 24:29-31, 25:31-46; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; Revelations 20:4-6, 11-15)

Declaration of Human Sexuality and the Church

Because we are all wounded and broken people in need of the healing power of God's grace in Christ Jesus, and being aware of the confusion of voices pertaining to human sexuality, the following statement defines our common understanding for sexual behavior: we affirm the Biblical ethic of compassion, love and ministry to all sexually broken persons and the availability of God's grace to all that repent (Luke 5:30-32; John 8:1-11; I Corinthians 6:11).

We affirm God's gracious creation intent for both faithful lifelong heterosexual unions for married persons and for committed celibate behavior for unmarried persons as the only Biblical options for human sexual conduct. All other sexual unions are clearly identified in Scripture as being sinful and destructive of persons (Genesis 1:27, 2:24; I Thess. 4:3-8; Heb. 13:4).

We affirm that all alternative sexual unions outside of heterosexual marriage including homosexual/bisexual practices, adultery, and fornication are sin. Such conduct calls for repentance and openness to the transforming power of God (Lev. 18:22, 20:13; Rom. 1:18-32; I Cor. 6:9-10).

Therefore, we will not recognize for ordination or recognize the preexisting license or ordination of any practicing adulterer, fornicator, gay/lesbian/bisexual persons, or any person that affirms endorses and/or celebrates non-Biblical sexual practices such as those stipulated above; and further,

We will not accept churches into fellowship who ordain or have in ministerial positions practicing adulterers, fornicators, gay/lesbian/bisexual persons or those who affirm, endorse, or celebrate non-Biblical sexual practices such as those stipulated above; and further,

BE IT RESOLVED, that any person affiliated with Friendship Baptist Church that endorses, celebrates, or affirms practices adultery, fornication, homosexual and/or bisexual practices, or celebrates non-Biblical sexual practices will be given the opportunity to counsel with our church counselor or Pastor. Should a person choose to remain in a state of defiance to the Biblical ethic agreed upon by this Ministry, the person will be indicating their desire to sever their relationship with Friendship Baptist Church.

What We Practice

Beliefs are not worth much unless they are translated into actions. Based on what the Bible teaches, we feel very strongly about the following seven practices:

"The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us to do what is right" (2 Timothy 3:15).

Since God's Word is the only completely reliable and truthful authority, we accept the Bible as our manual for living. Our first question when faced with a decision is "What does the Bible say?" We practice daily Bible reading, Bible study, and Bible memorization. The Bible is the basis for all we believe.

"Christ loves us, and by His death He has freed us from our sins and made us a kingdom of priests to serve God..." (Revelations 1:6 GN) "You are...the King's priests...God's won people, chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God." (1 Peter 2:9 GN).

The Bible teaches that every Christian is called to "full time" Christian service, regardless of his or her vocation. We practice the truth that every believer is a minister or encouraging every member to find a place of service and ministry. Every believer has direct access to God through prayer and Bible reading.

"A tithe of everything you produce belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord" (Leviticus 26:30).

At Friendship, we practice tithing for the support of Christ's body, the church, as God commands. We recognize that giving 10% of our income is the Biblical standard of giving.

"For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ..." (Colossians 2:12 GN).

We practice baptism by immersion under water—the way Jesus was baptized, and the way the Bible commands.

(Jesus said), "I am the Vine, you are the branches. If you abide in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; but apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5).

We believe the only way possible to live the Christian life is by God's power within us. So we seek to practice a daily dependence on God's Spirit to enable us to do what is right (Philippians 2:13; Ephesians 5:18).

"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).

It is the responsibility of every Christian to share the Good News with those with whom God brings us into contact. We practice personal sharing about Christ and inviting friends to church.

How Our Church is Structured

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.

I. The Church is a _____.

"They continued steadily learning the teaching of the apostles, and joined in the fellowship..." (Acts 2:42).

A top priority in a fellowship is _____ and _____.

"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3).

"So let us concentrate on the things that make for harmony and the growth of our fellowship together" (Romans 14:19 Ph).

ANY attitude that causes disunity is sin.

(Colossians 3:15; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 2 Timothy 2:14; Proverbs 17:14; 2 Corinthians 13:11; Philippians 1:27, 2:1-3; Colossians 2:2; Philippians 4:2; 1 Peter 3:8; 1 Corinthians 14:33; John 13:34-35; 2 Timothy 2:23; Romans 15:5-6; Romans 12:16-18; Colossians 3:13-14; Psalms 133:1)

Implication:

A good structure promotes unity and downplays _____.

II. The Church is a _____

"You should be like one big happy family, full of sympathy toward each other, loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds" (1 Peter 3:8 LB).

See also: (Galatians 6:10; Hebrews 2:10-12; 1 Peter 4:17)

III. The Church is a _____

See also: (1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 5:23; Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18; 2:19)

We are a body—not a business!--We are an organism—not an organization!

“Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We each have different gifts according to the grace given us” (Romans 12:4-6).

In an organization, “maintenance” becomes the focus. But in an organism, “ministry” is the focus.

“God gave...some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God’s people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up...” (Ephesians 4:11-12)

Our Structure:

•The people are the “_____”

•The Pastor is the “_____”

IV. **The church is a _____**
(Jesus’ favorite description of the church.)

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

Therefore, it is cared for and led by an _____.

“Jesus asked Simon Peter, do you really love me? Yes Lord, said Peter. Then take care of my sheep” (John 21:16-17).

Three different terms are used in the New Testament to refer to the same church leaders.

- Poimen**--Pastor, shepherd, feeder
- Presbuteros**—elder, spiritual maturity
- Episcopos**—overseer, bishop (manager)

“To the elders I say...Be shepherds of God’s flock, serving as overseers...”
(1 Peter 5:1-2)

“Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. When they arrived he said to them...Guard yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be pastors of the church of God...” (Acts 20:17-18, 28)

See also: (Titus 1:5-7; 1 Timothy 5:17)

Session Six

What it Means to be a Member

"So Let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony, and on the growth of our fellowship together."
(Romans 15:19 Ph.)

What It Means To Be A Member

The difference between “attendees” and “members” can be summed up in one word: _____. At Friendship we recognize the need for a formal membership. We ask you to commit to membership for four reasons:

I. _____: Christ is committed to the church.

“...Christ loved the church and He gave His life for it” (Ephesians 5:25).

II. _____: 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.

III. _____: It defines who can be counted on.

Every team must have a roster. Every school must have an enrollment. Every business has a payroll. Every army has an enlistment. Even our country takes a census and requires voter registration. Membership identifies our family.

IV. _____: It produces spiritual growth.

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?

We will never ask our members to do more than the Bible clearly teaches. We only expect our members to do what the Bible expects every Christian to do. These responsibilities are spelled out in the following Membership Covenant.

The Friendship Membership Covenant

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and been baptized, and being in agreement with Friendship's Mission Statement. I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with Friendship Baptist Church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

I. I WILL PROTECT THE UNITY OF MY CHURCH

- By acting in love toward other members
- By refusing to gossip
- By following the leaders

"So let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony, and on the growth of our fellowship together" (Romans 15:19 Ph.).

"Live in complete harmony with each other-each with the attitude of Christ toward each other" (Romans 15:5 LB).

"Have a sincere love for your fellow believers; love one another earnestly with all your hearts" (1 Peter 1:22 GN).

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of our mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs" (Ephesians 4:29).

"Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be no advantage to you" (Hebrews 13:17).

II. I WILL SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MY CHURCH

- By praying for its growth
- By inviting the unchurched to attend
- By warmly welcoming those who visit

"To the church...we always thank God for you and pray for you constantly" (1 Thessalonians 1:2).

"So his master said, Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full" (Luke 14:23 NLT).

"So warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified" (Romans 15:7 LB).

III. I WILL SERVE THE MINISTRY OF MY CHURCH

- By discovering my gifts and talents
- By being equipped to serve
- By developing a servant's heart

"Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you" (1 Peter 4:10).

"God gave...some to be pastors and teachers to prepare god's people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up..." (Ephesians 4:11-12).

"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ...who took on the very nature of a servant..." (Philippians 2:3-4, 7).

IV. I WILL SUPPORT THE TESTIMONY OF MY CHURCH

- By attending faithfully
- By living a godly life
- By giving regularly

"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together...but let us encourage one another" (Hebrews 10:25).

"But whatever happens, make sure that your everyday life is worthy of the gospel of Christ" (Philippians 1:27).

"Each one of you, on the first day of each week, should set aside a specific sum of money in proportion to what you have earned and use it for the offering" (1 Corinthians 16:2).

"A tenth of all you produce is the Lord's, and it is holy" (Leviticus 27:30).

Session Seven

Stewardship

“Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.”
(Matthew 6:19-21 NLT)

Stewardship

Definition:

God has called you to be His steward. You have been commissioned as a manager in trust over God's estate.

Did you know that 15% of everything Jesus said—including most of his parables—deals with money and possessions? Stewardship of money and possessions is a pivotal topic addressed throughout the Bible, perhaps because God knew that money would always be a primary competitor for our hearts.

“No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money” (Matthew 6:24).

God cares a great deal about the use of money. There is a great deal written in the New Testament about money and our relationship to it. The use of money is a great indicator of one's true profession of faith.

God owns everything! Nothing we have been provided is ours. God has put us in charge of our time, energy, and money for a limited period to evaluate our decisions on how we use them—for serving ourselves or for kingdom building. If our choice is to serve ourselves, then we are investing our treasure where it will be lost, stolen, or corrupted. If our choice is kingdom building, then our treasures will be store in heaven.

I. God's Part

A. _____

“Who has a claim against me that I must pay? Everything under heaven belongs to me” (Job 41:11).

“The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it” (Psalm 24:1).

B. _____

“You are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all” (1 Chronicles 29:12).

“The Lord does whatever pleases him.” (Psalm 135:6).

C. God provides

"Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand" (1 Chronicles 29:14).

"For from him and through him and to him are all things" (Romans 11:36).

D. God gives riches and material possessions

"Wealth and honor come from you" (1 Chronicles 29:12).

"I made the earth and its people and the animals that are on it, and I give it to anyone I please" (Jeremiah 27:5).

II Believer's Responsibility

A. Our position is that of a steward

"The chief servant in (Abraham's) household, the one in charge of all that he had" (Genesis 24:2).

"I (Paul) am simply discharging the trust committed to me" (1 Corinthians 9:17).

B. Stewards have certain responsibilities

1. Recognize the Lord as owner of one's possession.

"Any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:33).

2. Be faithful

"Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful" (1 Corinthians 4:2).

"A faithful man will be richly blessed" (Proverbs 28:20).

3. Be obedient/seek the Lord

"He will richly bless you, if only you fully obey the Lord your God" (Deuteronomy 15:4-5).

"Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart" (Psalm 37:4).

"Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth...Then you will be prosperous and successful" (Joshua 1:8).

"As long as (Uzziah) sought the Lord, God gave him success" (1 Chronicles 26:5).

4. Trust in the Lord, not in ourselves or our possessions

"Humility and the fear of the Lord bring wealth and honor and life" (Proverbs 22:4).

"Whoever trusts in his riches will fall" (Proverbs 11:28).

C. We are held accountable for our stewardship

"Each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad" (2 Corinthians 5:10).

"The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books" (Revelations 20:12).

III. Debt

A. We are encouraged not to be in debt

"The borrower is servant to the lender" (Proverbs 22:7).

"Do not become slaves of men" (1 Corinthians 7:23).

B. Debt repayment—Godly people repay their debts

Do not say to your neighbor, "Come back later; I'll give it to tomorrow"—when you now have it with you (Proverbs 3:28).

"The wicked borrow and do not repay" (Psalm 37:21).

C. The Lord can supernaturally provide resources to get out of debt

"Go, sell the oil and pay your debts. You and your sons can live on what is left" (2 Kings 4:1-7).

Session Eight

Godly Disciplines

"But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God."
(Daniel 6:10 NLT)

Godly Disciplines

Train yourself to be godly (1Timothy 4:7).

The dictionary defines discipline as the “training that corrects, molds, or perfects the mental faculties and the moral character.” In other words, learn the correct way of doing something and develop it by practice. Learn to do the right thing in the right way. Repeat the process until it becomes a natural part of how you do things. Developing disciplines requires focus, commitment, and time, and it takes work. But until the practice of godly disciplines is mastered, progress in every area of your life will produce less than pleasing results.

Developing good habits is one of the foundational qualities of life that everyone should strive to acquire. Good habits continually produce positive results, whereas bad habits weaken the best of efforts.

I. Prayer-Talking with and Listening to God

What does the Bible teach about prayer? There can be no progress in any part of the Christian life without prayer.

_____ Because the Bible commands us to do so (1 Timothy 2:8). The Lord Jesus was a man of prayer. If He felt the need of it, how much more should we (1 Thessalonians 5:17, 18; Ephesians 6:18).

_____ We should pray at set times each day, and throughout the day. It is a good plan to pray upon getting up in the morning and before you go to sleep at night. Then during the day, we should look to the Lord when problems come up, when help is needed or when we want to thank Him for something.

_____ Daniel kneeled when he prayed (Daniel 6:10). So did the Lord Jesus (Luke 22:41). Nehemiah, on the other hand, prayed while he was standing before the king (Nehemiah 2:4). In general, Christians kneel when at home, but it is still their privilege to speak to God while walking along the street or engaging in their activities.

_____ Among the Scriptures which answer this question are (Philippians 4:6; 1 Timothy 2:1-3; and Matthew 9:38). There is nothing too small and nothing too great for prayer. Many believers find it helpful to keep a prayer list on which they record such items as:

- A: Names of unsaved relatives and friends.
- B: Names of those who are sick or in need.
- C: Names of those who are serving the Lord, Pastor & church leaders, missionaries, evangelists, teachers, etc.

Where your requests are specific, you will see specific answers; whereas, if you pray for people in general, without naming them, you will have no way of knowing whether your prayers are answered.

Conditions for answered prayer?

1. If we abide in Christ, our requests will be answered (John 15:7). Abiding in Christ means keeping His commandments (1 John 3:22).
2. Our prayers should be according to His will (1 John 5:14). Since the general outline of God's will is found in the Bible, our requests should be Scriptural.
3. Our requests should be offered in the Name of Christ (John 14:13; 16:23). When we truly ask in His Name, it is the same as if He were making the request of God.
4. Our motives must be pure (James 4:3). If our motives are selfish and sinful, we cannot expect an answer.

Dangers of prayer.

Don't pray to be seen (Matthew 6:5, 6).

Don't ask God to do something you can do yourself. No sane Christian would step into the path of an oncoming automobile and then ask God to take him back to the sidewalk.

Don't ask for something you know you should not have.

II Reading the Bible and Bible Study

What should a Christian know about Bible? Bible study must be done in full dependence on the Holy Spirit. He is our teacher, and we should constantly seek His guidance (John 14:26; 16:13).

There is no quick, easy way to learn the Bible. It involves hard work for everyone. Yet it is also true that the more knowledge of it we gain, the easier it is to gain additional knowledge. Tools that can help you:

1. A good study Bible. This should be a translation from the original language of the Bible (such as King James, New King James, New American Standard, English Standard Version or New International Version).
2. A good "exhaustive" concordance. This enables you to find a verse when you can remember only a word or two in it.
3. A good Bible dictionary. This contains a wealth of information on Bible subjects.

Having provided yourself with the necessary equipment, the believer is ready to start a serious study of the Scriptures.

1. The first thing to do is set an appointed time each day, and begin reading the Bible. We recommend that you start with the Book of John.

Just in case you think, you do not have enough time. This is the approximate time it will take you to read:

Entire Bible	77 hours
Old Testament	56 hours
New Testament	21 hours
Torah (first 5 books of OT)	14 hours
Gospels (first 4 books of NT)	8.5 hours
Psalms & Proverbs (3 Times)	21 hours

Look at the gift of time God gives all of us:

-24 hours a day for 365 days = 8,760 hours a year
-40 work hours a week = 2,080 hours a year
-8 hours of sleep a day (I know that is being generous) = 2,920 a year
This leaves you with 3,760 discretionary hours each year.

If you were to tithe (10%) of this time to God=376 hours. Even if you attend church 2.5 hours weekly=130 hours. So out of your remaining 246 hours (your tithe of time) can you find time to read your Bible in one of the ways above?

I think so, you decide!

2. When you come to an unfamiliar word, look it up in the Bible dictionary or in a regular dictionary.
3. Try to memorize two or three verses of Scripture each week. You can begin with familiar gospel verses such as: (John 1:12; John 3:16; John 3:36; John 5:24; Romans 10:9, 10).
4. The great goal of Bible study, of course, is to put into practice what you have learned. We must allow the Word of God to correct us, to make us more like the Lord Jesus Christ (Jeremiah 15:16).
5. As a church, we are challenged each year to read through our Bibles.

Remember when you are reading and studying the Bible you are studying an "eternal" book. Everything you learn about it is an investment for eternity. So, give it your best.

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

Bible study is essential to growth as a believer. Just as proper nourishment is necessary for the growth of a child, so the Word of God is necessary for the growth of the Christian. Reading the Bible and studying the Bible are not generally the same. Reading is part of study, but there is a difference. Reading familiarizes us with topics in the Bible, while studying focuses on a particular section and seeks a more comprehensive explanation to what is being said.

There are basically three steps to good Bible study. The _____ is observation: What do I see? Pay attention to the details. Be sure you understand who is talking, what any reference points are, and what the facts are. The _____ is interpretation: What does it mean? Analyze the content of what you are studying and then its context. How do the verses relate to other verses surrounding the passage? Be sure you make comparisons of the text you are studying with other portions of Scripture.

The Bible is always the best interpreter of itself. The _____ in studying the Bible is application: How does it work for me? To make application you must understand the text yourself, and where you are in relation to the text. Application should be a continual process in your life.

The Bible is the only source in this world that has indisputable truth. This is why the study of God's Word is the most important discipline of life. It is foundational to living the life God intended for each of us.

These tips will help you study the Word of God on your own. You are invited to join one of our Ex Hour Classes or weekly Bible studies.

III. _____

"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success" (Joshua 1:8).

Meditation on God through His Word! It is so simple and makes so much sense, and as you begin to practice it you will discover that it works. Your life will be transformed as you enjoy the wonderful pleasure of coming close to God.

Meditation is the believer's means of drawing close to God by reading, studying, and thinking on His Word. It can only be completed by the power of the person of the Holy Spirit, who opens the believer's eyes to the message of Scripture. As we begin to understand the truths of God, reflect upon those truths, and finally respond to those truths, the process and impact of meditation occurs. As we enjoy this deepened relationship, we come to know more clearly God's will for our lives.

IV.

Fasting is the biblical discipline of abstaining from food for spiritual purposes.

"But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly" (Matthew 6:17-18).

We live in a world obsessed with food. It is impossible to drive a city block without passing a local pizza parlor or fast-food restaurant. Some would argue that we have a national addiction to food. Therefore, the subject of fasting is something that appears unnatural, a least, and strange. Fasting must always be for spiritual purposes, not for public attention.

First, fasting is not intended to persuade God to change His mind. Second, fasting will not make you more acceptable in God's eyes. Third, biblical fasting is not done to lose weight.

You must be saying, what then is fasting for? First, fasting prepares us. As we prepare for what God calls us to, fasting puts us in a proper attitude for God to conform us to that purpose and to His image. We need to take time to separate ourselves from the influence of the world. Second, it cleanses. Fasting is a means of personal cleansing for the physical body, ridding it of impurities. Because we are spirit beings, the spirit is accordingly refreshed during times of fasting by the work of the Holy Spirit. Third, fasting equips us for the battle we wage against Satan. A powerful verse deals with fasting and the way it is connected to our victory over the strongholds in our lives. Isaiah made the connection:

Is this not the fast that I have chosen:
To loose the bonds of wickedness,
To undo the heavy burdens,
To let the oppressed go free,
And that you break every yoke? (Isaiah 58:6)

When Satan gains a foothold in our lives, we tend to try everything but fasting. When Satan did his best to tempt Christ, a fasting Messiah triumphed over the evil one.

Scripture gives us striking examples where fasting played a significant role in changing lives and nations. We would be wise to learn the lessons of those who have gone before us.

Fasting is essential in hopeless situations.
Fasting is invaluable in national crisis.
Fasting is invaluable in knowing the will of God.

The kinds of fasts written about in the Bible, are as follows:

The ***normal*** fast involves abstaining from all food but not from water. " When He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He (Jesus) was hungry" (Matthew 4:2). It says nothing about being thirsty. He "ate nothing" (Luke 4:2). Again, it says nothing about being thirsty. The most common Christian fast is to abstain from food but to drink water, or, in some cases, fruit juice.

The ***partial*** fast is a limitation of diet but not total abstinence from food and water. This fast is demonstrated in Daniel 1:12 where we are told that Daniel and some of his friends had only "vegetables to eat and water to drink."

The ***absolute*** fast means abstaining from both food and water. There are several references in Scripture regarding the absolute fast. We are told in Ezra " he ate no bread and drank no water, for he mourned because of the guilt of those from the captivity" (Ezra 10:6). Again, this type of fast is recorded when Esther requested that the Jews fast and pray on her behalf (Esther 4:16).

The ***private*** fast is referred to in (Matthew 6:16-18). Jesus spoke quite eloquently to the crowd gathered about fasting in a way not to be noticed by others. In direct contrast to the prideful fast exhibited by the Pharisees, Jesus made it clear that He looks deep into the heart of the person observing the fast to motivation. Fasting for public attention or political power was not an acceptable reason to fast.

The ***congregational*** fast is found in (Joel 2:15-16):

Blow the trumpet in Zion,
Consecrate a fast,
Call a sacred assembly;
Gather the people,
Sanctify the congregation.

Reference is also made in (Acts 13:2) in Luke's words indicating that at least part of the congregation of the church at Antioch were fasting.

Not everyone should fast. Anyone with serious health problems should consult a doctor (one who has a relationship with God preferable) before fasting. The more you know about what the Bible has to say about when fasting is appropriate and necessary, the better equipped you will be when God leads you to begin this discipline.

WHAT NOW?



We offer Bible study courses during the week and on Sunday mornings, which are designed to help you grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ.

Be sure to check the Sunday bulletin or our website (www.wearefriendship.church) for a listing of all or our classes. Listed below are our Sunday Bible Study Classes (Ex Hour).

Ex Hour Classes on Sundays (10:15-11:15am)

Preschool (3-5 years old)	MP 11	Deaconess Rachel Elias & Freda Peterson
1 st /2 nd Grade	MP 10	Kellye Turner & Dee Dee Galbreath
3 rd & 4 th Grade	MP 7	Ann Williams
5 th & 6 th Grade	MP 3	Brandon Shelby, & Brietta Looney
7 th & 8 th Grade	MP 4	Dr. Laseanda Wesson & Teddy Sincire
9 th /10 th Grade	CB 7	Melissa Hunter, James Holloway & Deacon Chucky Owens
11 th /12 th Grade	CB 8-9	Lonnie Wall, Sr., & Melanie Porter

Young Adults 18-35	CB 18-19	Elona Brown & Rev. Keturah Washington
Adult Class	CB 207	Angella Gardener & LeShon Archer
Adult Class	CB 217	Deacon Hilton McDaniel & Deacon Al Smith
Couples Class	CB 214	Rev. Patrick Christian & Rev. Dr. Barbara Christian
Seniors (50+) Class	CB 216	Sam Green
Adult Class	Sanctuary	Rev. Terry Abercrombie & Deacon Rick Archer
Adult Class	CB 017	Rev. Tanya Pervis & Deacon Allen Gobert
Adult Class	CB 208	Rev. Patrick Harris & Deacon Albert Elias
New Members Class	CB 209	Ava Campbell, Stephen Castleberry & Nancy Ford

Welcome To Friendship Baptist Church, Yorba Linda, CA.

Prospect Street

Lower Parking Lot

Parking

Reserved Staff Parking

Trailer



Handicap Parking

Handicap Parking

B a s t a n c h u r y R o a d

Parking

I m p e r i a l H i g h w a y

2nd

206-217

Carrington Bldg.

Librar

Check-

004-019

Basement

Medic Office

Sanctuary

Multi-Purpose

Kitchen



Conference Room



Kitchen



Nursery Room 10



Nursery Room 11



Wifi access



Restroom are on all floors in Carrington Building



Stair cases



Elevators



Main Entrances

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate

was crucified, died, and was buried;

He descended to the dead.

On the third day He arose again;

He ascended into heaven,

He is seated at the right hand of the Father,

And He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the universal Church,

the communion of the saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting.

Amen

NOTES

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Answer Key:

- Page 3
a family-a member-orphan-Christ-a church body-Committed to
- Page 12
Purpose in life-love-enjoy-manage
- Page 13
Be the boss-sin
- Page 16
Admit-Believe-Accept-Invite-Belong
- Page 19
Christ-Commanded-Believer-Burial-New Life
- Page 20
Inward-Jesus-Bible-dip Under-Burial
- Page 21
Believed-Believed
- Page 23
Simple Act-Reminder-Symbol-Statement of Faith-believers
- Page 26
Commandment-Commission
- Page 29
Celebrate-Demonstrate-Communicate-Assimilate-Educate-Expressing Love to God
- Page 30
Love-Truth-Sharing the Good News-God Loves People-God Commands us to reach out
- Page 31
Growth is God's will Larger-smaller-reach-connect-Grow spiritually-meeting need with love
- Page 32
Minister-important-area
- Page 37
Bible as our sole authority-Priesthood of every believer-Tithing-Baptism
- Page 38
Spirit-led Living-Telling Others About Christ
- Page 39
Fellowship-harmony-unity-differences-family-body (Body of Christ)
- Page 40
ministers-shepherd-flock-shepherd
- Page 42
Commitment-A Biblical Reason-A Cultural Reason-A Practical Reason-A Personal Reason
- Page 46
God owns everything-God controls everything
- Page 50
Why pray? -How often? -In what position? - For what?
- Page 53
First step-second step-third step
- Page 54
Meditation-thinking about God-Fasting

Church History

Friendship Baptist Church was established May 20, 1964

1964-1987 Friendship met in six different locations.
January 4, 1987, location #7 in Yorba Linda, CA the
sanctuary and multi-purpose building were opened.
May 19, 2001, the James D. Carrington Administration
and Learning Center were dedicated.

Bishop James D. Carrington
Pastor Emeritus
Pastor from 1964 to 2012

Rev. Kenneth C. Curry, Jr.,
Senior Pastor

Faceted Dalle Glass Window (in the sanctuary)

Inspired by Pastor Carrington, the stained glass window that appears in the front of the sanctuary was designed by a stained-glass artist.

TOP LEFT: The Cross is symbolic of our faith in Jesus. The cloth of the ribbon represents the grace of God descending to all faithful believers – it can also be interpreted as the Good News of Christ Resurrected.

CENTER LEFT: pages of the written word descending – the teachings of Jesus as written by the four Evangelists; Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

BOTTOM LEFT: A figure inspired by the example and teaching of our Lord.

TOP RIGHT: The sun and the moon is symbolically suggested as Alpha and Omega. The first and last letters of the Greek Alphabet signify that Jesus is the beginning and the end of all things.

CENTER RIGHT: Shows us coming into the knowledge of the gospel and acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Teaching the gospel inspiring all to salvation and a better life.

