

Worship Life Church Foundations Class 101

Discovering Salvation & Our Church Family

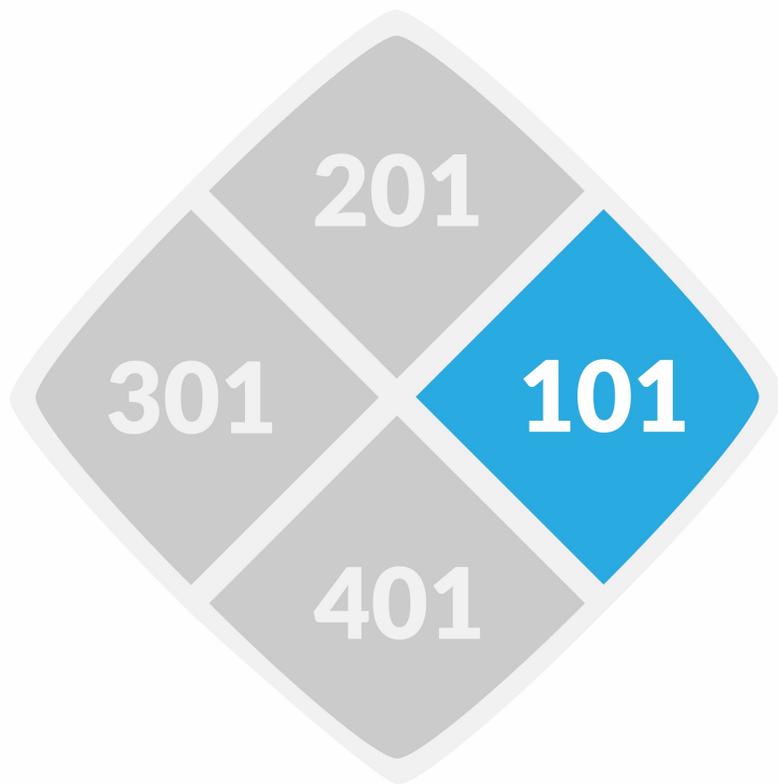
PARTICIPANT GUIDE

Table of Contents

WELCOME	3
SESSION ONE: OUR PURPOSE	4
The Reason for Everything	5
God's Five Purposes for Your Life on Earth	7
Why You Need the Church	11
What Does It Mean to Be a Christian?	12
Baptism: How You Identify with God's Family	18
The Lord's Supper: Communion with God's Family	23
ANSWER KEY	25

Welcome

Class 101: Discovering Our Church Family is the first of Worship Life Church's foundational classes. You were designed to be a part of a church family, and that's exactly what WLC is intended to be—your family. A healthy family has common beliefs, purposes, and commitment. That's why we want to share with you what we believe and where we're going.



YOU ARE HERE

SESSION
ONE

Our Purpose

THE REASON FOR EVERYTHING

1. Everything starts with God!

The Lord has made everything for his own purpose.

PROVERBS 16:4 (GW)

Everything, absolutely everything . . . got started in him and finds its purpose in him.

COLOSSIANS 1:16 (THE MESSAGE)

For everything comes from God alone. Everything lives by his power, and everything is for his glory. To him be glory evermore.

ROMANS 11:36 (TLB)

2. God is love.

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God . . . Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

1 JOHN 4:7–8 (NIV)

3. God wanted a family to demonstrate his love.

When I think of the wisdom and scope of his plan, I fall down on my knees and pray to the Father of all the great family of God—some of them already in heaven and some down here on earth.

EPHESIANS 3:14–15 (TLB)

4. God's family is the church!

God's family is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

1 TIMOTHY 3:15 (GW)

5. God's family will last forever, outlasting everything else in creation.

[God] has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end.

ECCLESIASTES 3:11 (NLT)

[We have] the hope of life forever, which God promised to us before time began. And God cannot lie.

TITUS 1:2 (NCV)

6. Although God created us last, he thought of us first. He planned the universe for his family.

I am your Creator. You were in my care even before you were born.

ISAIAH 44:2 (CEV)

He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession.

JAMES 1:18 (NLT)

7. God didn't reveal his plan until he sent Jesus.

And God gave me the work of telling all people about the plan for his secret, which has been hidden in him since the beginning of time. He is the One who created everything. His purpose was that through the church all the rulers and powers in the heavenly world will now know God's wisdom, which has so many forms. This agrees with the purpose God had since the beginning of time, and he carried out his plan through Christ Jesus our Lord.

EPHESIANS 3:9-11 (NCV)

8. Jesus makes the whole plan possible.

It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for . . . part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.

EPHESIANS 1:11-12 (THE MESSAGE)

[Jesus] died for us so that . . . we can live with him forever.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:10 (NLT)

This is the plan: At the right time [God] will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth.

EPHESIANS 1:10 (NLT)

9. The time is getting closer.

All creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. The creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay.

ROMANS 8:19, 21 (NLT)

No mere man has ever seen, heard, or even imagined what wonderful things God has ready for those who love the Lord.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:9 (TLB)

10. In the meantime, we can practice for eternity.

We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed.

TITUS 2:12-13 (NLT)

GOD'S FIVE PURPOSES FOR YOUR LIFE ON EARTH

1. God planned me for _____.

For you created everything, and it is for your pleasure that they exist and were created.

REVELATION 4:11 (NLT96)

The Lord takes pleasure in his people.

PSALM 149:4 (GNT)

Long before he laid down earth's foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love.

EPHESIANS 1:4 (THE MESSAGE)

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment."

MATTHEW 22:37-38 (NIV)

"I don't want your sacrifices—I want your love; I don't want your offerings—I want you to know me."

HOSEA 6:6 (TLB)

The first purpose of life is _____.

The Bible calls this _____.

Some . . . people have missed the most important thing in life—they don't know God.

1 TIMOTHY 6:21 (TLB)

"People who don't know God are always worrying . . ."

MATTHEW 6:32 (CEV)

2. God formed me for _____.

[God's] unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave him great pleasure.

EPHESIANS 1:5 (NLT96)

[God] has given us the privilege of being born again so that we are now members of God's own family.

1 PETER 1:3 (TLB)

That family is the church of the living God, the support and foundation of the truth.

1 TIMOTHY 3:15 (NCV)

Love your spiritual family.

1 PETER 2:17 (THE MESSAGE)

The second purpose of life is _____.

The Bible calls this _____.

We belong to each other, and each needs all the others.

ROMANS 12:5 (TLB)

3. God created me _____.

From the very beginning God decided that those who came to him—and all along he knew who would—should become like his Son.

ROMANS 8:29 (TLB)

We look at this Son and see . . . God's original purpose in everything created.

COLOSSIANS 1:15 (THE MESSAGE)

In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 2:5 (NCV)

As the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him.

2 CORINTHIANS 3:18 (TLB)

The third purpose of life is _____.

The Bible calls this _____.

"[Some people have] such shallow soil of character that when the emotions wear off and some difficulty arrives, there is nothing to show for it."

MARK 4:17 (THE MESSAGE)

4. God “shaped” me _____.

You shaped me first inside, then out; you formed me in my mother’s womb.

PSALM 139:13 (THE MESSAGE)

S _____

H _____

A _____

P _____

E _____

God has made us what we are. In Christ Jesus, God made us to do good works, which God planned in advance for us to live our lives doing.

EPHESIANS 2:10 (NCV)

The fourth purpose of life is _____.

The Bible calls this _____.

5. God made me _____.

“In the same way that you gave me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world.”

JOHN 17:18 (THE MESSAGE)

Through Christ, God made peace between us and himself, and God gave us the work of telling everyone about the peace we can have with him . . . So we have been sent to speak for Christ.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:18, 20 (NCV)

The most important thing is that I complete my mission, the work that the Lord Jesus gave me—to tell people the Good News about God’s grace.

ACTS 20:24 (NCV)

Make the most of your chances to tell others the Good News.

COLOSSIANS 4:5 (TLB)

The fifth purpose of life is _____.

The Bible calls this _____.

The Big Key

I can't fulfill God's purposes _____.

The big takeaway here is you can't fulfill God's purposes by yourself. You need to be part of God's family.

WHY YOU NEED THE CHURCH

*The Purpose of the Church Is to Help People Fulfill
God's Purposes for Their Lives*

Since we are all one body in Christ, we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others.

ROMANS 12:5 (NLT96)

Having a church family will help you:

- Center your life around God (**worship**)
- Connect with other believers (**fellowship**)
- Cultivate spiritual maturity (**discipleship**)
- Contribute something back (**ministry**)
- Communicate God's message (**mission**)

What's Driving Your Life?

This world is fading away, along with everything it craves. But if you do the will of God, you will live forever.

1 JOHN 2:17 (NLT96)

[God's] plans endure forever; his purposes last eternally.

PSALM 33:11 (GNT)

"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me . . . and you'll recover your life . . . and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

MATTHEW 11:28, 30 (THE MESSAGE)

It makes no difference who you are or where you're from—if you want God and are ready to do as he says, the door is open.

ACTS 10:35 (THE MESSAGE)

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 asks 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 purpose in life.

Why Am I Here?

1. God created me to _____ me.

The LORD appeared to us in the past saying: “I have loved you with an everlasting love.”

JEREMIAH 31:3 (NIV)

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 1:4-5 (GNT)

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 to be like himself. He created them male and female, blessed them, and said, “Have many children, so that your descendants will live all over the earth and bring it under their control. I am putting you in charge of the fish, the birds, and all the wild animals.”

GENESIS 1:27-28 (GNT)

[God] richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

1 TIMOTHY 6:17 (NIV)

[Jesus said,] “I have come in order that you might have life—life in all its fullness!”

JOHN 10:10 (GNT)

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 <i>Romans 8:1</i>	LIFE AND PEACE <i>Romans 8:6</i>	HELP WITH WEAKNESS <i>Romans 8:26</i>
PURPOSE <i>Romans 8:28</i>	CONFIDENCE <i>Romans 8:31</i>	SECURITY <i>Romans 8:39</i>
POWER AND STRENGTH <i>Philippians 4:13</i>	FULFILLMENT <i>Philippians 4:19</i>	FREEDOM <i>John 8:32, 36</i>

What's the Problem?

1. People have a natural desire to _____ and to ignore God's principles for living.



2. The Bible calls this attitude _____.

All of us like sheep have gone astray; each of us has turned to his own way.

ISAIAH 53:6 (MEV)

If we say that we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and refusing to accept the truth.

1 JOHN 1:8 (TLB)

Sin breaks our close relationship with God. It causes us to fear God and try to live our lives outside of His will.

The trouble is that your sins have cut you off from God.

ISAIAH 59:2 (TLB)

Yes, all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious ideal.

ROMANS 3:23 (TLB)

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

“WHEN PEOPLE HAVE PROBLEMS, THEY OFTEN TRY MANY DIFFERENT WAYS OF COPING BEFORE TURNING TO GOD.”

There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.

PROVERBS 16:25 (NIV84)

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



What's the Solution?

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

JOHN 14:6 (NIV)

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 in the person of Jesus Christ.

"JESUS HAS ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF YOUR SIN PROBLEM."

The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ROMANS 6:23 (NIV84)

God did this for us because He loves us and wants us 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 (AP)

God is on one side and all the people on the other side, and Christ Jesus, himself man, is between them to bring them together, by giving his life for all mankind.

1 TIMOTHY 2:5 (TLB)

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. _____ 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 just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from every wrong.

1 JOHN 1:9 (AP)

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

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is your Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

ROMANS 10:9 (NIV84)

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name [Jesus] . . . by which we must be saved.

ACTS 4:12 (NIV)

3. _____ **God's free gift of salvation. Don't try to earn it.**

For it is by grace you are saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

EPHESIANS 2:8-9 (NIV84)

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

"To all who received him, he gave the right to become children of God. All they needed to do was to trust him to save them. All those who believe this are reborn!—not a physical rebirth resulting from human passion or plan—but from the will of God."

JOHN 1:12-13 (TLB)

[Jesus says,] *"Listen! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in."*

REVELATION 3:20 (HCSB)

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

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 grow now as a Christian.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.

ROMANS 10:13 (GW)

BAPTISM: HOW YOU IDENTIFY WITH GOD'S FAMILY

What is the Meaning of Baptism?

1. It illustrates Christ's _____, _____, and resurrection.

Christ died for our sins . . . he was buried . . . and . . . he rose again.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-4 (KJV)

When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus.

ROMANS 6:4 (THE MESSAGE)

For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ.

COLOSSIANS 2:12 (GNT)

2. It illustrates my _____ as a Christian.

When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 (TLB/NLT)

Your baptism in Christ was not just washing you up for a fresh start. It also involved dressing you in an adult faith wardrobe—Christ's life, the fulfillment of God's original promise.

GALATIANS 3:27 (THE MESSAGE)

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.

3. It demonstrates my _____ into Christ's body, the church.

We each used to independently call our own shots, but then we entered into a large and integrated life in which [Christ] has the final say in everything. (This is what we proclaimed in word and action when we were baptized.) Each of us is now a part of his resurrection body.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:13 (THE MESSAGE)

Why Should I Be Baptized?

1. To follow the example set by _____.

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth . . . and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

MARK 1:9 (NIV)

2. Because Christ _____ it.

“Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

MATTHEW 28:19-20 (GNT)

3. It shows that I really am a _____.

Many of the [people] who heard Paul believed and were baptized.

ACTS 18:8 (NIV)

We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands.

1 JOHN 2:3 (NIV84)

Why Be Baptized By Immersion?

1. Because _____ was baptized that way.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water.

MATTHEW 3:16 (NIV)

2. Every baptism in the _____ was by immersion.

Two examples:

Then both Philip and the [man] went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water . . .

ACTS 8:38-39 (NIV)

Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water.

JOHN 3:23 (NIV)

3. The word “baptize” means to _____ water.

The Greek word *baptizo* means “to immerse and dip under water.”

4. **Baptism is the best symbol of a burial and resurrection!**

The founders from different denominations agree with the statement above.

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: “We are buried with him, alluding to the ancient manner of baptizing by immersion.”

THE NEW CATHOLIC ENCYCLOPEDIA: “The biblical form of baptism was unquestionably immersion. In the Catholic church, immersion seems to have prevailed until the twelfth century.”

Who Should Be Baptized?

Every person who has _____ in Christ.

Many of them believed his message and were baptized.

ACTS 2:41 (GNT)

Simon believed in Christ and was baptized.

ACTS 8:13 (NLV)

But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news . . . and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

ACTS 8:12 (NIV)

At Worship Life Church, we wait until our children are old enough to **believe** and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them.

Some churches practice a “baptism of confirmation or dedication” for children. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on the behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his own personal confession of Christ. This custom began about 300 years after the Bible was completed. **This is different from the baptism talked about in the Bible**, which was only for those old enough to believe. The purpose is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ.

At Worship Life Church, we believe it is essential that every believer be baptized the way Jesus demonstrated, even though many of us were “confirmed/ dedicated” as children.

When Should I Be Baptized?

“AS SOON AS YOU HAVE BELIEVED!”

Those who believed . . . were baptized . . . that day!”

ACTS 2:41 (NLV)

Then Philip spoke. Starting with that passage, Philip told the official the Good News about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water. The official said to Philip, “Look, there’s some water. What can keep me from being baptized?” The official ordered the carriage to stop. He and Philip stepped into the water, and Philip baptized him.

ACTS 8:35–38 (GW)

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, get signed up for the next Baptism opportunity. If you wait until you are “perfect,” you’ll never feel “good enough!”

Practical Questions

1. Can my family be baptized together?

Yes! If each family member fully understands 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 can must understand and recognize Jesus as Lord and savior of their life.

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.

2. What should I wear when I am baptized?

We have dark Worship Life T-shirts you can wear over your swimsuit or any clothes you feel comfortable in. We also provide, towels, you can use. We recommend dark attire that can be fully immersed!

3. Will I have to say anything?

No. At the beginning of the service, one of our pastors will briefly explain the meaning of baptism. You will wait until called upon and will be escorted into the pool. A pastor of WLC will briefly lower you just under the water, and then you can leave the pool, dry off, and watch the others. We encourage you to invite all your relatives and friends to attend your baptism! You will be given a certificate of your baptism.

4. Special needs?

All of our pastors can perform a private baptism in special circumstances.

THE LORD'S SUPPER: COMMUNION WITH GOD'S FAMILY

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/ Communion is an object lesson that represents a great spiritual truth for believers.

What Is the Lord's Supper?

To find the answer to what is the Lord's Supper, let's read, one verse at a time, 1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NIV).

1. It is a _____.

The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread.

VERSE 23

2. It is a _____.

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."

VERSE 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, in remembrance of me."

VERSE 25

4. It is a _____.

For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

VERSE 26

Who Should Take the Lord's Supper?

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

For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body [of the Lord] eats and drinks judgment on himself.

1 CORINTHIANS 11:29 (BSB)

How Do I Prepare Myself for the Lord's Supper?

So then, 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. Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.

1 CORINTHIANS 11:27-28 (NIV)

You prepare yourself through:

- **Self-Examination** (1 Corinthians 11:27)
- **Confessing My Sins** (1 John 1:9)
- **Recommitment** (Romans 12:1)
- **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. He instituted it on a Thursday night. In the Bible, Christians observed the communion in small groups in homes.

ANSWER KEY

SESSION ONE: OUR PURPOSE

God's Five Purposes for Your Life On Earth

1. God planned me for HIS PLEASURE.

The first purpose of life is KNOWING AND LOVING GOD.

The Bible calls this WORSHIP.

2. God formed me for HIS FAMILY.

The second purpose of life is TO LOVE OTHERS.

The Bible calls this FELLOWSHIP.

3. God created me TO BECOME LIKE CHRIST.

The third purpose of life is GROWING TO MATURITY.

The Bible calls this DISCIPLESHIP.

4. God “shaped” me TO SERVE HIM.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

HEART

ABILITIES

PERSONALITY

EXPERIENCES

The fourth purpose of life is TO SERVE GOD BY SERVING OTHERS.

The Bible calls this MINISTRY.

5. God made me FOR A MISSION.

The fifth purpose of life is TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT HIM.

The Bible calls this EVANGELISM.

The Big Key

I can't fulfill God's purposes BY MYSELF.

What Does It Mean to Be a Christian?

Why Am I Here?

1. God created me to LOVE me.
2. We were created to ENJOY a personal relationship with God and to MANAGE all of the rest of God's creation. This makes us special.

What's the Problem?

1. People have a natural desire to BE THE BOSS and to ignore God's principles for living.
2. The Bible calls this attitude SIN.

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.
2. BELIEVE that Jesus died to pay for your sins and that he rose again on Easter and is alive today.
3. ACCEPT God's free gift of salvation. Don't try to earn it.
4. INVITE Jesus Christ to come into your life and be the director (Lord) of your life.

Baptism: How You Identify with God's Family

What is the Meaning of Baptism?

1. It illustrates Christ's DEATH, BURIAL, and resurrection.
2. It illustrates my NEW LIFE as a Christian.
3. It demonstrates my INCORPORATION into Christ's Body, the church.

Why Should I Be Baptized?

1. To follow the example set by JESUS CHRIST.
2. Because Christ COMMANDED it.
3. It shows that I really am a BELIEVER.

Why Be Baptized by Immersion?

1. Because JESUS was baptized that way.
2. Every baptism in the BIBLE was by immersion.
3. The word "baptize" means to SUBMERSE INTO water.

Who Should Be Baptized?

Every person who has BELIEVED in Christ.

The Lord's Supper: Communion with God's Family

What is the Lord's Supper?

1. It is a SIMPLE ACT.
2. It is a REMINDER.
3. It is a SYMBOL.
4. It is a STATEMENT OF FAITH.

Who Should Take the Lord's Supper?

Only those who are already BELIEVERS (Mark 14:22–26).