

EDoC

New Members Class



4-week session

Must complete to serve.

Equipping Disciples of Christ (EDoC)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Week 1 – CULTURE – How we do it here

- Vision
- Mission
- Values
- Our Beliefs
- Our Commitment
- Ministries

Week 2 – Faith 101

- Faith
- Prayer 101
- Stewardship

Week 3 – Salvation

- Salvation

- **Week 4 - Holy Spirit 101**

- Holy Spirit

Week 1 – Culture: How we do it here

MISSION: Follow Christ. Equip Disciples. Rebuild Families

VISION: Consistently show people the Love of Christ, while equipping them with the Word of God.

5-CORE VALUES: **Faith** (believing in something without seeing it), **Hope** (confidence that God will work it out), **Love** (this is the greatest of all fruits of the spirit...without it we are nothing) **Forgiveness** (as Christ has forgiven us, choose to let go of anger, bitterness and unforgiveness) and **Reconciliation** (always reconcile with your brother and sister)

Commitment: We are committed to the ministry and the work that God has called us to through showing love over hate, patience over impatience, peace over conflict, unity over dissension and having faith over fear...because with God all things are possible.

Our Beliefs

5-fold ministry: Apostle, Prophet, Pastor, Evangelist, and Teacher. Each play a different, but major role in the body of Christ and within the church. **Ephesians 4:11-12** **And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.**

Apostle Function: Foundational leaders, often pioneering new works, establishing churches, and providing spiritual oversight. They carry a strong sense of authority and a unique ability to plant and nurture new ministries.

Characteristics: Visionary, pioneering spirit, fatherly/motherly, strategic thinkers, and possess spiritual authority.

- Scripture: Ephesians 2:20, 1 Corinthians 9:1-2, Acts 14:14.

Prophet Function: Conveys divine messages, reveal God's will, and bring correction or direction to individuals and the church. They play a crucial role in discerning the spiritual atmosphere and guiding the community accordingly.

Characteristics: Sensitivity to the Spirit, visionaries, intercessors, bold communicators, and often display supernatural insight.

- Scripture: Ephesians 4:11, Acts 11:27-28, 1 Corinthians 14:3.

Pastor Function: To shepherd and care for the spiritual well-being of the local church. They provide guidance, support, and nurture the members, ensuring their growth and maturity in Christ. **Characteristics:** Compassionate, nurturing, good listeners, shepherds at heart, and possess a genuine love for people.

- Scripture: Ephesians 4:11, 1 Peter 5:2-3, John 21:15-17.

Evangelist Function: Focus on outreach and the proclamation of the Gospel. They have a passion for leading others to Christ, and mainly engage in evangelistic activities and missions. **Characteristics:** Bold communicators, compassionate, relational, and possess a heart for the lost.

- Scripture: Ephesians 4:11, Acts 21:8, 2 Timothy 4:5.

Teacher Function: Provides solid biblical instruction, helping believers understand and apply the Scriptures. They contribute to the doctrinal foundation and intellectual growth of the church.

Characteristics: Knowledgeable, communicative, patient, and have the ability to simplify complex concepts.

- Scripture: Ephesians 4:11, 2 Timothy 2:2, James 3:1.

- God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, or Triune being meaning three persons in one divine nature. God the Father, Jesus the Son and The Holy Spirit. When the world was created, God said “Let us create man in our image.” All three have been around since creation; there is no separation between the 3; they are 1 with 3 different functions.

- **God the Father** sits on the throne. He led in the Old Testament and gave instructions by speaking directly to His people or through His prophets to lead the people to salvation. Often people will pray only to God without realizing that we can only get to heaven through Jesus.

John 14:6

- **Jesus is God** in the flesh and is seen in the New Testament. He was blameless, sinless, and died for our sins. He preaches repentance, forgiveness, love and salvation (forgiveness of our sins) which is offered only through HIM. **Acts 4:12** Prayer of salvation in Romans 10:9-10
- **Holy Spirit:** right before Jesus ascended back to heaven, HE promised to leave with us a Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit. He walks with us, protects us, comforts us, intercedes for us, our advocate, strengthens us and lives within us. **John 14:26**
- **Satan is real.** He’s, our adversary. His job is to contradict everything Jesus has said about us. He’s the father of lies, destroyer of life, seeking who to devour. **1 Peter 5:8; John 8:44; 2** He is our enemy and controls all earthy things. **Corinthians 4:4;** After all he was once one of Gods top angels who was kicked out of heaven. **Revelation 12:7-12**
- **Blood of Christ & the Resurrection.** The blood of Christ saves, heals, and sets free. We take communion as recognition of Jesus sacrifice on the cross for our sins. It’s a way to reverence HIM as our Lord and Savior **1**

Peter 3:18. Not only did HE die for our sins, but the best part is when HE rose again. Without HIS resurrection there would be no forgiveness! Jesus conquered death, hell, and the grave so we can have life more abundantly. Luke 24:6-7; Romans 1:4; 4:25. In the Old Testament, they sacrificed animals and used their blood for atonement. When Jesus came in the flesh, HE was used as the scarified and HIS blood shed took the place of the animals.

- **Repentance** is needed daily. It's not just about confessing our sins, but true repentance is turning away from the sin. It's acknowledging to Jesus our wrong doings and aligning with HIM to lead a more Holy way of life.
- **Water Baptism: Mathew 3:11-17.** We believe that water baptism is an outward expression of your commitment to Christ. We baptize in the name of the Father, Son & Holy Spirit.
- **Holy Spirit Baptism: Acts 2:38-39, John 3:5** We believe that baptism by water and the Holy Spirit are required to enter heaven. And after salvation, Jesus promised that we will receive (baptized in) the Holy Spirit if we believe.
- **Faith: Hebrews 11:1;** Faith is the thing hoped for, evidence of things not seen. We have to seek and trust God and His process for our faith to grow. **Mathew 17:20-21** says, "Faith as a mustard seed."
- Grace is a gift from God. It's undeserved, divine favor that is given freely by Christ every day and cannot be earned. It's needed in our faith walk and helps build the bridge between us and GOD. **Ephesians 2:8.**

Ministries: There are several ministries that we've started and a few we are looking to launch. After completion of the new members class, you will be eligible to volunteer and participate in one or more ministries. Please visit our new Members Desk and let us know where you'd like to serve.

Week 2 – Faith 101

Faith: Hebrews 11: 1 Now faith is the [a]substance of things hoped for, the [b]evidence of things not seen. Faith is trusting God that we can't tangibly see, feel, or know.

- **Holiness:** Being separate and set apart from the world. Hating what God hates. Loving what God loves. Hebrews 12:14 Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.
- **Grow in the knowledge of truth:** 1 Tim. 2:4, God desires that all man would be saved and come to the full knowledge of the truth. He wants us not only to believe into the Lord Jesus to be saved but also to come to the full knowledge of the truth.
- **Fellowship with other believers:** Philippians 2:2-4 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord of one mind.

Prayer 101: Just a conversation with Christ. Luke 11:2-4 And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. 3 Give us day by day our daily bread. 4 And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive everyone that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

- Build a relationship with Christ.
 - A – Adoration
 - C – Confession

- T – Thanksgiving
- S - Supplication
- Important to set aside a time daily to pray

Stewardship: How we handle the time, talent and treasures given by God.

- 5 Characteristics of a faithful steward: Confidence, Humility, Trust, Forgiveness & Obedience
- Tithes / Offering: **Leviticus 27:30; Malachi 3:11-12; Mathew 23:23** God loves a cheerful giver **2 Corinthians 9:7**
- Time and Talents: **Mathew 25:14-30**
 - Grace Giving
- Hospitality: Our duty to treat strangers and friends alike, welcoming on another into our communal and personal lives. **Isaiah 58:7 and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the Lord's people, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds.; Titus 1:8** Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined.

Week 3: Salvation 101

Week 3: Salvation

Salvation is defined as preservation or deliverance from sin, harm, ruin, or loss “Ref: Oxford Dictionary”. In our Christian faith salvation, it is defined as the saving of the soul from sin and its consequences. It is also deliverance or redemption from sin and its effects. Jesus states in **Luke 19:9-10** “Today

salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

5 Steps to Salvation

Hear: We must first hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. **Mark 6:7 NKJV** “And He called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them power over unclean spirits.” Jesus sent the disciples out all over the region to proclaim, witness, and testify of His works to all who would listen`. **Mark 6:12-13 NKJV** “So they went out and preached that people should repent. And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed them.” Hearing the works of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ is the first step to Salvation.

Believe: We must believe what we have heard. **Ephesians 1:13 NKJV** “In Him you also trusted, after you heard the work of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of Promise.” We must constantly challenge ourselves and progress in our belief in God. Shifting our perspectives and not being one sided so we continually grow in our belief of His wonderful works for our lives and others He is sending us to reach. **Romans 10:9-10 NKJV** “That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart, one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” This scripture is a constant reminder that belief starts in our hearts, so we must constantly check our hearts posture.

Repentance: We should have a heart that desires, and a mouth that confesses daily repentance of our sins. To repent means to have a change of mind and heart that leads to a

change in our action and behavior; simply put to turn away from all together. **Mark 1:15 NKJV** “and saying, “**The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.**” When a person feels as if they don't need to repent their sins daily, they in turn open themselves up for demonic spirits to have power over them and they limit any level of deliverance to take place in their life. **Luke 13:2-3 NKJV** “And Jesus answered and said to them, “**Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.**” Jesus makes it clear that unless repentance takes place, we will all perish; there is nothing left out of “all”. Discern the times we are living in and don't allow your heart to become callous and filled with pride to where you think you're above repenting and asking God for forgiveness. **Acts 17:29-30 NKJV** “**Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising. Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent.**”

Confess: We must always confess our sins and faults daily. To confess our sins, we are simply acknowledging what we have done wrong. God already knows we have sinned because He's all knowing. By confessing we are agreeing with God that we have sinned. We can't define what sin is only God can, and sin is definitely a big deal to God so we should never minimize confessing our sins. **1 John 1:9-10 states** “**If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**” If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. There are three different types of confession.

1. **Acknowledge sin to yourself;** you have to first admit and do self-reflection and humble yourself and recognize that you are not living up to God's standards for your life.
2. **Confess everything to God; Psalm 51:4 NKJV** states "Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight—That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when Your judge." We should always admit our sins to God and ask for forgiveness.
3. **Confess to someone you trust or can confide in; James 5:16 NKJV** states "Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." It's vital to have a community of believers who can pray and stand in the gap on your behalf. It's not about telling your business, it's about being stronger in numbers. There is power in agreement and bringing things to light is a part of one's spiritual growth. Sometimes the other person may be gifted in healing, so by confessing your issues or troubles to them and them in return standing in the gap interceding to God on your behalf is a necessity in the body of believers.

Lastly understanding just like in **Psalm 32:5 NKJV** states "I acknowledge my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden." I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord, And You forgave the iniquity of my sin." We can't be forgiven if we refuse to confess, God will forgive but we have a major part in the process.

Be Baptized: The Greek root word Baptizo means to plunge, immerse, sink; hence to wash to be immersed. Baptism means to be reborn in the Spirit of the living God,

the Bible talks about water immersion baptism in **John 3:5-7 NKJV** states “Jesus answered, **Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God.**” Jesus’s baptism led the way for all of us as an important example of why the symbolism of baptism is necessary. It is a public display of our confession of our faith and new life in Jesus Christ. John the Baptist taught that the immersion into the water equated to turning from sin and elevated to a new life in Jesus Christ. **Matthew 28:19 NKJV** states “**Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.**” Which leads to the baptism of the Holy Spirit which is our promise from the Father. **Acts 1:5 NKJV** “**for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.**” This promise was fulfilled once Jesus was crucified, the baptism of the Holy Spirit was only possible through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Different dominations believe that the baptism of the Holy Spirit happens at conversion or salvation here at **Equip** we believe it can happen during that time or once your delivered and cleansed of different spirits, then your dwelling will be open to receive the baptism of Holy Spirit. For example, in **Luke 11:24-25 NKJV** states “**When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he says, I will return to my house from which I came. And when he comes, he finds it swept and put in order.**” This tell us in reference to the baptism of the Holy Spirit is that sometimes before you can be filled with the Holy Spirit you must first be cleansed or purged from unclean spirits. **1 Peter 3:21 NLT** states “**And that water is a picture of baptism, which now saves you, not by removing dirt from your body, but as a**

response to God from a clean conscience. It is effective because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”

Week 4: Holy Spirit 101

Week 4: Holy Spirit

Conviction: Conviction in a Biblical sense is when a sinner is brought to repentance and not sin against one’s own conscience. Conviction is the work of the Holy Spirit where a person is able to see himself/herself as God sees he/she: guilty, defiled, and totally unable to save himself (**John 16:8**). This is not to be confused with guilt for the devil uses the tactic or weapon of guilt to make the believer feel useless, and unable to receive God’s blessings. God’s conviction helps us see that we are outside of His will or that we are separated from Him. Guilt makes us feel shameful, confused, and depressed. Conviction recharges us to reconnect our fellowship and relationship with God. (**Hebrews 10:22 NLT**).

Wooing: In a natural sense it means to seek the affection, favor, or love of (a woman or man) with a view to marry. Spiritually it means to solicit or entreat especially with importunity, or with persistence. The Holy Spirit is persistent at drawing us in and wooing us with God’s goodness and mercy. God is intentional at courting us because we are His bride that He is coming back for. God is wooing us from a life full of stress and restrictions into His presence which encompasses freedom, liberty, and richness. (**Job 36:16 NKJV**).

Indwelling: As children of God the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is an inner activating or guiding force, it is the true Spirit of God living on the inside of us. As stated, before we believe here at Equip Church that the indwelling can happen

at the time of Salvation, but there is also a great deliverance and faith in Jesus that needs to occur before the indwelling can take place, (Luke 11:13). It's not simply about asking to be filled but believing that God will when you ask in His time not yours, not lacking in faith. The Holy Spirit is our Counselor, distributing His gifts to, in, and through you. The evidence of the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit is not just heavenly language or (tongues), but it's also what Galatians 5:22-23 says "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."

Empower: To empower in a natural sense means to give someone the authority or power to do something; or make someone stronger and more confident. The empowerment of the Holy Spirit is a necessity to be an effective witness for God, it is available to all believers (Acts 4:31). Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to empower and equip His people, and for us as believers to incline our ears to His voice and move by the instructions of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8). There is a difference between your conscience, the devil speaking, and your Holy Spirit speaking to you; the Holy Spirit's voice almost always lines up to God's word remember in Isaiah 55:8-9 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways, "says the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts." The empowering of the Holy Spirits also comes with the spiritual gift listed in (1 Corinthians 12) the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all (1 Cort 12:8):

The Word Of Wisdom

This gift is designed to enable those who receive it to know things that would otherwise not be known to them. It

Manifests itself as a supernatural impartation of future knowledge and/or what to do with knowledge.

The Word Of Knowledge

Giving supernatural insight or information, which one would have not known apart from the Holy spirit revealing it. It is spontaneous knowledge rather than learned through study.

Faith

It is a miracle working faith. The ability to believe God for the supernatural in any situation.

Gifts Of Healing

Sovereign instances of supernatural healing of the body, soul, or spirit of an individual or group.

The Working Of Miracles

A supernatural occurrence that goes beyond our human scope of comprehension. You will have the ability through the power of the Holy Spirit—to bend the natural laws of this world. The Miracle should always give God glory.

Prophecy

Spontaneous, Spirit-inspired, intelligible messages, spoken from God then orally delivered in the gathered assembly, intended for the edification, correcting, or encouragement of the people.

The Discerning Of Spirits

This gift is used primarily for knowledge and protection. When manifested, the discerning of spirits enables a Believer to decipher the motivational spirit in others. You can decipher when something is the Holy Spirit versus a demonic spirit.

Various Kinds Of Tongues

Gift Of Tongues- The Gift of Tongues in 1 Corinthians 12:10 is for public worship when spoken, these tongues need to be interpreted so

Grace Of Tongues- The Birthright for all Christians that will take your worship to a new transcended dimension. These tongues

that the church can be edified.

are person specific and no need for interpretation.

The Interpretation Of Tongues

The supernatural ability—distributed by the Holy Spirit who dwells in you—to decipher and interpret a language that is otherwise unknown to the person operating in the gift. the gift of the interpretation of tongues is to discern and reveal God’s truth to unbelievers and in meaningful worship.

Self-Control: In a Biblical sense self-control when filled with the Holy Spirit is about resisting the temptation to break God's law (which includes losing our temper) and reacting to others without demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit in our thoughts and actions (**2 Corinthians 10:5**). Self-control is not a gift we receive passively, but actively we are not the source, but we are intimately involved. True self-control is a gift from above, produced in and through us by the Holy Spirit. We must understand that self-control is received from outside ourselves, rather than whipped up from within, the effort we give to control our own selves will greatly contribute to our praise, rather than God's. **2 Timothy 1:7 AMP** states “For God did not give us a spirit of timidity or cowardice or fear, but [He has given us a spirit] of power and of love and of sound judgment and personal discipline [abilities that result in a calm, well-balanced mind, and self-control].”

Teachers

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