



# MEMBERSHIP **CLASS**

LEARN ABOUT OUR CHURCH



## Welcome to the Membership Class

We're glad you've chosen to find out more about Springfield Baptist Church. This class is the basic introduction to our church family. Since we have members from many different church backgrounds, this class was designed to clearly explain who we are and what we are all about.

**Membership Class** contains four sessions taught by: Matt Browning, Curtis Honts and david evans.

### THE BASIS FOR THIS CLASS

*"Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the **household** of God." - Ephesians 2:19*

**LEADER Question:**  
**FIRST QUESTION: Why Springfield Baptist Church?**

KEY TRUTHS: (Romans 12:4-8)

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

### THE GOAL OF THIS CLASS:

...That I will commit myself to \_\_\_\_\_ and to the \_\_\_\_\_ . Phil. 1:21

## WHAT MAKES SPRINGFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH A FAMILY?

### Four things unite us:

1. Our Salvation (What God has done for us)
2. Our Statement (Why we exist as a church)
3. Our Strategy (How we fulfill our purpose)
4. Our Structure (When and where we fulfill our purpose)

# SEMINAR OUTLINE

## **SESSION ONE: OUR SALVATION**

- What it means to be a Christian
- The Symbols of Salvation: Baptism and Communion

## **SESSION TWO: OUR STATEMENTS**

- Our Purpose Statement
- Our Faith Statement (Baptist Faith and Message 2000)
- Our Lifestyle Statement

## **SESSION THREE: OUR STRATEGY**

- Who we are trying to reach
- Five circles of commitment
- Levels of Growth

## **SESSION FOUR: OUR STRUCTURE**

- How our church is structured
  - Staff
  - Deacons (Deacon List and Covenant)
  - Lay Leadership
- Overview of our ministries
  - Map – Springfield Baptist Church
  - Sunday School and Small Groups
  - Outreach Ministries
  - Discipleship Ministries
  - Constitution and Bylaws
- What it means to be a member and what is next.
  - Ministry Gifts Inventory Score Sheet
  - Springfield Baptist Church Membership Covenant





# SESSION ONE

## Our Salvation



*“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is a gift of God, not of works lest anyone should boast.”*

**Ephesians 2:8-9**



# WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CHRISTIAN?

Most people live their entire lives without 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 my 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 & power.**

But real happiness comes from understanding my \_\_\_\_\_.

## I. WHY AM I HERE?

**A. God made me to \_\_\_\_\_ me!**

*“He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”*

*I John 4:8-10*

**B. 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 man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; ...and God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth and manage it and have control over it.’”*

*Genesis 1:27 & 28*

*Jesus said, “I am come that they might have life and have it more abundantly.”*

*John 10:10*

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

**Clear Conscience**  
*Romans 8: 1*

**Life and 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. Why then aren't most people really 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."

"If it feels good, do it regardless of what God says about it"

"It's my life and I'll do what I please!"

**A. The Bible calls this attitude:** \_\_\_\_\_.

*"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, everyone, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."*

Isaiah 53:6

*"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."*

I John 1:8

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

*"But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear you."*

Isaiah 59:2

*"... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."*

Romans 3:23

When our relationship to 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 its end is the way of death."*

Proverbs 16:25

Even when we know that our deepest need is God; we often try wrong ways of getting to know Him:

- "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 real hard and earn it."
- "I'll be real religious and go to church."

### III. WHAT'S THE SOLUTION

Jesus Christ said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*

John 14:6

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

#### **JESUS HAS TAKEN CARE OF YOUR SIN PROBLEM!!**

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

*Romans 6:23*

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

*"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

*Romans 5:8*

*"For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus."*

*1 Timothy 2:5*

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

### IV. WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO?

**A. \_\_\_\_\_ 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 to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

*1 John 1:9*

**B. \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus died to pay for your sins and that He rose again on Easter, and is alive today.**

*"That if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation."*

*Romans 10:9-10*

*"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other Name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*

*Acts 4:12*



**C. \_\_\_\_\_ to God’s drawing of you to Him and  
\_\_\_\_\_ God’s free gift of salvation. You can’t earn  
it!!**

*Jesus said, “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him;”  
John 6:44*

*“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is a gift of God,  
not of works, lest anyone should boast.”  
Ephesians 2:8-9*

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

**D. \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ to come into your life and  
be the Boss (Lord) of your life.**

*“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those  
who believe in His Name: who were born, not of blood, nor of will of the flesh, nor of the will of  
man, but of God.”  
John 1:12-13*

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

IF GOD HAS REVEALED THESE TRUTHS TO YOU AND IS CONVICTING YOU, THEN YOU CAN TAKE THESE STEPS BY PRAYING A SIMPLE PRAYER OF COMMITMENT TO GOD FROM AND ONLY FROM YOUR HEART:

“Dear Jesus, I am a sinner. I have no hope to eternal life outside of You. I ask for Your forgiveness for all of my sinful ways. Jesus, You are Lord! Thank You for choosing me and drawing me into a love relationship with You. From this point on, I give You my life to rule. Teach me Your ways that I may be obedient to You. Thank You for dying for me and bearing my shame that I might have purity. I believe in my heart that You rose on the third day and defeated death. Help me to follow in Your path. Amen!

*“For whoever calls on the Name of the Lord shall be saved.”  
Romans 10:13*

# THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING BAPTIZED

## I. WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

A. To follow the example set by \_\_\_\_\_.

*“It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan.”*

*Mark 1:9*

B. Because Christ \_\_\_\_\_ it.

*“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 things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

*Matthew 28:19-20*

C. It demonstrates that I really am a \_\_\_\_\_.

*“... many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized.”*

*Acts 18:8*

*“Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.”*

*1 John 2:3*

D. It is essential for \_\_\_\_\_.

His baptism is the first act we see Jesus do as an adult. He is baptized before any of His ministry.

## II. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

A. Illustrates Christ's \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, and resurrection.

*“...Christ died for our sins...He was buried...and that He rose again...”*

*1 Corinthians 15: 3, 4*

*“Buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.”*

*Colossians 2:12*

**B. It illustrates my \_\_\_\_\_ as a Christian.**

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”*

*2 Corinthians 5:17*

*“Therefore, we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”*

*Romans 6:4*

Baptism doesn't make you a believer - it shows that you already believe. Baptism doesn't “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.

### **III. WHY BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION?**

**A. Because \_\_\_\_\_ was baptized that way.**

*“Then Jesus, when He had been baptized, came up immediately from the water...”*

*Matthew 3:16*

**B. Every baptism in the \_\_\_\_\_ was by immersion.**

(Example) *“... both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. Now when they came up out of the water...”*

*Acts 8:38-39*

**C. The word “baptize” means “to \_\_\_\_\_ water.”**

The Greek word *baptidzo* means, “to immerse or dip underwater.”

**D. It best symbolizes a burial and resurrection!**

The 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?**

**A. Every person that has \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ.**

*“Then those who gladly received His word were baptized...”*  
*Acts 2:41*

*“Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized...”*  
*Acts 8:13*

*“But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.”*  
*Acts 8:12*

## **B. What about baptizing children or babies?**

The Bible is silent about babies being baptized, it only speaks of believers, people old enough to place their faith and trust in Jesus Christ.

We believe that baptism is for those who have surrendered their life to the Lord Jesus Christ and it is required for everyone who desires to be a member of our church.

Children who are old enough to be saved (i.e., understand salvation) must have their parents' permission and complete understanding that baptism does not save them.

## **V. WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?**

### **As soon as you have believed!!**

*“Then those who gladly received His Word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.”*

*Acts 2:41*

*“And the eunuch answered Philip and said, “Please tell me, of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself, or of someone else?” And Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him. And as they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?” [And Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”] And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch; and he baptized him.*

*Acts 8:35-38*

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”, you’ll never feel “good enough”!

## **ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT BAPTISM?**



**THE MEANING OF 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 (or Communion). The Lord’s Supper is an object lesson that represents a great spiritual truth for believers.

**I. WHAT IS THE LORD’S SUPPER? (*I Corinthians 11:23-26*)**

A. It is a \_\_\_\_\_ time of intimacy, not a big \_\_\_\_\_ . (*Vs.23*)

B. It is a way to \_\_\_\_\_ . (*Vs. 24*)

C. It is a \_\_\_\_\_ . (*Vs.25*)

D. It is a statement of \_\_\_\_\_ . (*Vs.26*)

**II. WHO SHOULD TAKE THE LORD’S SUPPER?**

Only those who are already \_\_\_\_\_ . (*Mark 14: 22 – 26*)

*“For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner, eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body.”*

*I Corinthians 11:29*

**III. HOW DO I PREPARE MYSELF FOR THE LORD’S SUPPER?**

*I Corinthians 11:27-28*

- |  |       |                                    |
|--|-------|------------------------------------|
| 1. _____<br><i>I Corinthians 11:27</i> | By... | 2. _____<br><i>I John 1:9</i>      |
| 3. _____<br><i>Romans 12:1</i>         |       | 4. _____<br><i>Matthew 5:23-24</i> |

#### **IV. WHEN AND HOW OFTEN SHOULD WE OBSERVE THE LORD'S SUPPER?**

Jesus never said when and how often believers should observe the Lord's Supper. However, it is a very sacred time between the believer and the Lord and should not be practiced too much where the significance is lost.

At Springfield Baptist Church, we practice it three or four times a year in a morning service.

#### **QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE LORD'S SUPPER?**