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## **FBC's Next Step Class 4 week format**

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### **Purposes of this 4-week Next Step Class:**

1. To motivate & equip you with foundational steps as a disciple of Jesus Christ through basic discipleship training (**learning the Gospel & receiving salvation**).
2. To assist & encourage you in taking the next steps of your discipleship throughout this 4-week class and into the future (**baptism & Spirit habits**).
3. To welcome & introduce you to the body life of First Baptist Church (FBC) so you can understand who we are as a Christ-centered fellowship. To help you take your next steps (**faith, baptism, church membership, groups involvement, and service opportunities**).

### **Outline for this 4-week Next Step Class:**

**Week 1:** Gospel of Jesus Christ, Discipleship, & Spirit Habits of a Christian

**Week 2:** Primacy of Prayer, Getting a Grip on your Bible & Groups

**Week 3:** Understanding the Church, Spiritual Gifts, and Finding your Ministry

**Week 4:** The Life of Devotion & Discovering your mission

### Notes & Announcements:

\* Baptism services can be scheduled easily. Please talk to a pastor or elder if you have not yet taken this important faith step of obedience to be baptized.

\* We offer communion (The Lord's Supper) during service on the first Sunday of every month. Please talk with a pastor or elder if you would like to learn more or would like to participate but are unsure.

\* We offer regular opportunities for you to build relationships with people in the church by either joining a group or participating in an event. Please talk to me if you are not currently in a group. We have opportunities to connect or serve; please see the weekly bulletin called "The Focus", regularly published newsletter called "The Baptist Buzz", as well as advertisements around the gathering area and via webpage/Facebook page.

# FBC Next Steps

## Week 1 of 4

### I. Sharing the Gospel (“Good News”) of Jesus Christ in a Post-Christian Culture.

WE ARE **BRIDGE** FOR INTIMACY WITH GOD! (Genesis 1:27)

THE RELATIONSHIP WAS **BROKEN** BY SIN! (Romans 3:23; cf. Genesis 3;)

JESUS CHRIST IS THE **BRIDGE** BACK TO INTIMACY WITH GOD! (John 3:16; Romans 5:8; 6:23; 10:9-10)

The three parts of sharing the Gospel by telling your story (testimony) in under 5 minutes:

1. Start with a quick snap shot of what life looked like before Christ (< 1 min.);
2. Tell how you came to know and accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior (1 min.);
3. Answer the question: How has my life been transformed by Jesus Christ? (1-2 min.).

**Read out loud Ephesians 2:1-10 & Titus 3:3-7 to hear a beautiful snapshot of the gospel.**

### II. What is a disciple of Jesus Christ?

*"And Jesus said to them, 'Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men'"*  
(Mark 1:17)

A **disciple** is a person who intentionally follows Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Lord and Savior.

**Discipleship** is the life-long journey of a Christian to become more and more like Jesus Christ from the inside out. Recognize that you can't do this by your own power and that is why God has given you His Holy Spirit at your conversion (Ephesians 1:13; 4:30; cf. John 14—16).

**Jesus laid it out for us in His Great Commission, Matthew 28:16-20.**

1. Become a disciple of Jesus Christ (salvation is by faith alone; it is God's grace).
2. Be baptized (first step of obedience; a public testimony). \*See tri-fold handout.
3. Learn and obey all that Jesus commanded (discipleship; being a part of His Church).
4. The Great Commission is meant to be reproduced into every generation. It is passed through who you are and how you live before others. It is an intentional process.
5. For how long? Until Jesus returns! No retirement; only refocusing!

### III. Basic discipleship “Spirit habits”

**Memorize 1 Timothy 4:7b, “Train yourself for godliness.”**

**Following Jesus Christ (God has your head!).** A disciple has made a personal decision to

follow Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord in his or her life. A disciple is one who says, "I know Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior and I now accept Him as the Authority of my life."

**Spirit habits to grow up in your head:** Bible intake (listening, reading, studying), Bible meditation & memorization, lifestyle of learning. (*\*Week 2: Getting a Grip on God's Word*)

**Being changed by Jesus Christ (*God has your heart!*).** A disciple is undergoing life transformation by following Jesus Christ. Jesus said we would know a tree by its fruit (Matthew 7:17-20). As we spend time following Jesus, He changes us internally in our hearts which will affect how and what we think, say, and do--He changes who we are for His glory and purposes.

**Spirit habits to grow up in your heart:** Prayer, Silence & Solitude, Fasting, Journaling, Groups & Accountability

**Committed to Jesus Christ's mission to save people from their sin (*God has your hands and feet!*).** A disciple uses what they have to advance the Kingdom of God. Jesus saved us for a purpose and we see the need to be in mission as the reason for our fellowship (Luke 19:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20). God's mission is now our mission! Our hands and feet are for His service.

**Spirit habits to grow up in your lifestyle:** Evangelism, Serving, Stewardship, Perseverance, Corporate gatherings and worship

#### IV. Understanding FBC's Mission & Vision

FBC Mission: **We exist to transform stories through the gospel of Jesus Christ.**

FBC Vision: **We desire to see communities thriving to the glory of God.**

FBC Values: **Followers of Jesus Christ value:**

(Green color) **Growing closer to Jesus in every season of life.**

(Red color) **Loving others as God first loved us.**

(Blue color) **Developing people for a life of service.**

(Yellow color) **Living and giving generously to meet the needs of our neighbors.**

#### V. Getting it into your Heart Assignments:

1. **Write** out the gospel in your own words and your testimony using Scriptures that are helpful to you. Practice sharing it, as well as the gospel. Commit to memorizing the Scriptures.
2. **Make a list** of 5 people who need Jesus and start praying for them this week (start within your family and close friends). Be willing to step out in faith with one or more of these people to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ as the Spirit leads you over the next month.
3. **Read the Baptism brochure and study the Scriptures included.** What are your views on faith, salvation, and following up with steps of obedience such as baptism?
4. **Read** FBC Constitution & Bylaws (one per family). Please read at your pace over the next two weeks and bring any questions you have to the last 2 class meetings.
5. **Read** "My Heart, Christ's Home" to motivate and inspire you.

# FBC Next Steps Class

## Week 2 of 4

### I. The Primacy of Prayer

*“Rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer.” (Romans 12:12)*

*“So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened.” (Luke 11:9-10)*

#### APPROACH PRAYER WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDE.

- **Be real**

*“When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.” (Matthew 6:5)*

- Don't try to impress others (or yourself!)
- Don't try to impress God (for He knows you already...and He loves you!)

- **Be relaxed**

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

- **Be revealing**

*“And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him”.  
(Matthew 6:7-8)*

#### USE THE MODEL JESUS GAVE US

*Matthew 6:9-13 “Pray, then, in this way...”*

#### 1. PRAISE: I begin by expressing my love and adoration to God

*“Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name...” (v. 9b)*

**2. PURPOSE: I commit myself to God's will for my life**

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

Pray for God's will to be done...in my family...my church...my ministry...my job...my future...my city...the nation...the world.

*"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."  
(Romans 12:2)*

**3. PROVISION: I ask God to provide for needs**

*"Give us this day our daily bread..."* (v. 11)

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

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

*"You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask."* (James 4:2)

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

**4. PARDON: I ask God to forgive my sins**

*"And forgive us our debts ..."* (v. 12a)

*"Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way."* (Psalm 139:23-24)

*"He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion."* (Proverbs 28:13)

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

**5. PEOPLE: I pray for other people**

*"...as we also have forgiven our debtors."*(v. 12b)

*“Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.” (Matthew 5:23-24)*

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

## **6. PROTECTION: I ask for spiritual protection**

*“And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.” (v. 13a)*

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

*“You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.” (1 John 4:4)*

## **7. PRIORITIZATION: I recommit myself to God**

*“For yours is the kingdom and power and the glory forever. Amen.” (v. 13b)*

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

## **II. Learning how to Get a Grip on your Bible (See handout: The Word Hand)**

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

*“For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12)*

*“This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.” (Joshua 1:8)*

*“So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.” (Isaiah 55:11)*

## **Memorize Scripture (See Handout: Navigator's New Topical Memory System)**

*"Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You." (Psalm 119:11)*

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

## **Choosing the right Bible translation to get your grip on (See Handout: Bible Translations)**

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

### **III. Groups Help you Grow!**

- It is where you will find community and connection in the church.
- It is where care happens best in the church.
- Can happen Sunday morning, Wednesday night, or any other time in the week that a group of committed Christians can commit their calendars.
- There are a variety of kinds of groups; the key is to find or start the right one that you will follow through with.

### **IV. Homework Assignments:**

1. **Memorize** the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13). If you don't have a set apart time to pray, please start with the 7-7-365 plan (7 minutes per day; 7 days per week; 365 days per year). Put on your master schedule a 7 minute block of time and protect it for prayer.
2. **Read and reflect** on Psalm 119. This is the longest chapter in the Bible and is a powerful text to understand the importance of God's Word for our lives.
3. **Develop** a systematic reading plan for daily intake of the Bible, with a translation that helps you to accurately handle the word of God. Consider a reliable Study Bible if you are having difficulty understanding words or concepts. Getting a grip on your Bible starts with opening it regularly. There are many reading plans available at [www.youversion.com](http://www.youversion.com). This is a great app and resource in today's busy world. I recommend starting in the Gospel of John and reading 1 chapter/day working through the Gospels first and then the rest of the New Testament. If you want to throw in some Old Testament, read a Psalm or Proverb a day as well.
4. **Join a group.** Start a group. Commit to a group. Grow! This is a strategic focus in our church in 2018-19, so get ahead of the power curve and help us all grow. The fire is brighter when all of us are in together. Groups are the way to stay in the fireplace of God's community. Sunday service are not enough to stay "on fire" in today's world! It is easy to "get busy" or "fall out of habit" or "not get fed" when you expect one meal to meet all of your needs. You are invited!

# FBC Next Steps Class

## Week 3 of 4

**I. Understanding the Church: people called out of the world by God to gather as His people for His purposes and His glory.”**

**FBC Four Ministry Functions:** Mission, Fellowship, Worship, and Discipleship



**Mission:** We are a missional people not only locally, but beyond into the world. We believe God has promised us the world and that promise begins around our kitchen tables. **First Baptist Church is a training place** with the desire to not only support a mission program, but more intentionally to train and send missionaries in our community and into the world. We are going! Mission is our heart toward our community and beyond (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8).

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

**Fellowship:** We are a loving people who practice biblical *koinonia* that brings reconciliation of relationship to the people at the deepest of levels. **First Baptist Church is a relational place** with the desire to be a safe place for all people to learn and experience love, forgiveness, and reconciliation. We love one another and through our love strive to be known as Christ’s disciples to the world (John 13:34-35; Acts 2:42-47)!

*“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.” (John 13:34)*

**Worship:** We are a worshipping people who recognize we only exist and function because of the grace of God through the redeeming work of Jesus Christ and the sustaining presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst. **First Baptist Church is a loving place** because God is present and ours is to respond to His radiance and holiness in adoration, communion, and obedience. We love God with our whole person and worship God at all times (John 4:24; Matthew 22:37-40)!

*“God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:24)*



**Discipleship:** We are a learning people who are firmly committed to growing into and maturing as disciples of Jesus Christ. The Bible is our authoritative source for wisdom, truth, and life transformation. **First Baptist Church is a growing place** because we are intentional about meeting people where they are on their spiritual journey and walking, guiding, teaching, and discipling them through the Word of God into a deeper personal relationship with Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 2:1-15; 1 John 5:11-12).

*“The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” (2 Timothy 2:2)*

## **II. Understanding a little of our Faith & Practice.**

1. Review & answer questions about our Constitution & Bylaws.
2. Do you have any questions about the requirement for faith baptism by immersion to be a member? \*For your growth you have been given a short teaching on baptism in the brochure.
3. Do you have any questions on why we celebrate communion (“The Lord’s Supper”) on a regular basis? \*For your growth here is a short teaching on the Lord’s Supper:

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

1. It is a time of remembrance (a reminder)!

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

2. It is a symbol!

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

3. It is a statement of faith!

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

**Who Should Take the Lord’s Supper?** Only those who are already Christians.

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

**How Do I Prepare Myself for the Lord's Supper?** Through repentance and faith. It is by God's grace in a worthy manner.

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

### **III. Purpose of Spiritual Gifts is to build the body of Christ (see Spiritual Gifts Inventory)**

A Spiritual Gift is a special ability, given by the Holy Spirit to every believer upon being saved, to be used to minister to others and therefore build up the body of Christ. All gifts are given to help the Church fulfill its purposes to the glory of God.

***"Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware." (1 Corinthians 12:1)***

***"But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." (1 Corinthians 12:7)***

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

The Bible does not lock us into tight restrictions as to the number of spiritual gifts, or even their definitions. **The four major lists of gifts are found in Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 27-31; Ephesians 4:11-12; and 1 Peter 4:9-11.**

**The bottom line about spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12—14):** spiritual gifts are the temporary to build the eternal; don't worship the gifts (nor those who are working more maturely in their gifts), but only worship the Gift-giver!

Spiritual Gifts show your ministry whereas the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) shows your maturity in Christ. Christians have all the fruit given to them upon salvation, but no one has all the gifts. There is no one gift (i.e. tongues) that manifests at conversion to prove you're a Christian! The sign of salvation is a life that exalts Christ; God will grow up those who are His!

You don't need a separate "Baptism of the Spirit" or a "second movement of grace" to manifest the fruit or use your gifts; you just have to grow in grace. At conversion, you were already given everything in Christ through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Now, take the next steps that are set before you to mature and minister.

***"Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow." (James 1:17)***



# FBC Next Steps Class

## Week 4 of 4

**Review:** What are the implications of your discovery on your next steps of Christian discipleship? How has God gifted you and how is God calling you in ministry? Let's pray together about this so that we can support one another in our next steps...

### I. Discussion of the Life of Devotion

For further study please read "Tyranny of the Urgent."

*"But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does."  
(James 1:25)*

*"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me." (Revelation 3:20)*

*"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."  
(Matthew 6:33)*

### THE PURPOSE OF A KICK OFF DEVOTION TIME TO YOUR DAY:

#### 1. To give devotion to God

*"Ascribe to the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in holy array."  
(Psalm 29:2)*

*"Every work which he began in the service of the house of God in law and in commandment, seeking his God, he did with all his heart and prospered." (2 Chronicles 31:21)*

#### 2. To get direction from God

*"Make me know Your ways, O LORD; Teach me Your paths." (Psalm 25:4)*

- Consider your way:

*"Watch the path of your feet; And all your ways will be established." (Proverbs 4:26)*

*"In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight."  
(Proverbs 3:6)*

- Commit your day:

*“Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, and He will do it.” (Psalm 37:5)*

### **3. To gain delight in God**

*“Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart.”  
(Psalm 37:4)*

*“You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In  
Your right hand there are pleasures forever.” (Psalm 16:11)*

### **4. To grow daily like God**

*“seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and  
godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and  
excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so  
that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the  
corruption that is in the world by lust.” (2 Peter 1:3-4)*

*“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being  
transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.”  
(2 Corinthians 3:18)*

*“Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were  
uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as  
having been with Jesus.” (Acts 4:13)*

## **HOW TO BEGIN A DAILY DEVOTION TIME (QUIET TIME)**

### **The Important Factors:**

*“In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went away to a  
secluded place, and was praying there.” (Mark 1:35)*

#### **1. SELECT A SPECIFIC TIME**

The best time to have a quiet time is when I am at my best!

**Whatever time you set, be consistent!**

#### **2. CHOOSE A SPECIAL PLACE**

*“And He came out and proceeded as was His custom to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples  
also followed Him.” (Luke 22:39)*

### 3. GATHER THE RESOURCES YOU'LL NEED

1. A Bible – a good translation you can read and understand.
2. A Notebook - to write down what the Lord speaks to you about, and to keep your prayer list. It is also good to keep you focused when other things come to your mind.
3. Memory Cards (or app) for Scripture memorization.
4. A Songbook - if you want to sing.
5. Reference materials that you helps you understand and apply what you are learning.

### 4. BEGIN WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDES

- **Faith**  
*“Cease striving and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” (Psalm 46:10)*
- **Expectancy**  
*“Open my eyes, that I may behold; Wonderful things from Your law.” (Psalm 119:18)*
- **Willingness to Obey**  
*“If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself.” (John 7:17)*  
  
*“Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.”  
(Galatians 6:9)*

### A PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

*“Father, I realize that I was created to have fellowship with You. Thank you for making this privilege possible through Jesus’ death and resurrection. I know that daily fellowship with You is to be the most important thing in my life. I now want to commit myself to spending time every day with You in a set apart quiet time of Bible intake and prayer. I’m trusting in Your strength to help me be consistent and for my whole life to be in devotion to You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”*

## II. Understanding the Biblical Commitments to Membership:

### The six commitments of biblical church membership

1. I commit to being **a loving member** where I see membership as a call to godly living and relationships. I will:
  - a. Uphold biblical standards in my own life and in relationship with my brothers and sisters, according to Matthew 18.
  - b. Prioritize greater spiritual, emotional, physical, and relational health with God, self, family, and others.

2. **I commit to being a healthy member where I see membership as a part of God's plan for my life (John 13:35).** I will be a source of:
  - a. Unity, not division, knowing that none of us, including leadership, are perfect.
  - b. Mercy and grace, not gossip and dissension.
  
3. **I commit to being a praying member where I see prayer as my Christian responsibility to fulfill Jesus' prayer in John 17.** I will discipline my life to pray daily for the body of Christ including:
  - a. Pastors and leadership
  - b. Ministries & missions
  - c. Families & community
  - d. The worldwide church throughout all nations
  
4. **I commit to being a serving member where I see membership as an opportunity to visibly live a life of sacrificial service (Philippians 2:5-11).** I will:
  - a. Serve the church and its membership.
  - b. Actively live a life of ministry and mission through the guidance and power the Holy Spirit in my day to day life.
  
5. **I commit to being a functional member where I see membership according to the Bible's teaching (1 Corinthians 12—14).** I will demonstrate this in the following ways:
  - a. Active participation in a group.
  - b. Service in ministry.
  - c. Biblical financial partnership.
  - d. Witness for Christ to the community.
  
6. **I will be a committed member where I see membership in the body of Christ as a privilege that comes with responsibilities.** I recognize the church will only be healthy and grow when I am doing my part; therefore, I will:
  - a. Learn about and use my spiritual gifts to build the body of Christ (Ephesians 4).
  - b. Display the fruit of the Spirit to our community and beyond (Galatians 5:22, 23).

### **III. Question & Answers**

1. Regarding our Constitution & Bylaws.
2. The content of these classes.
3. Your next steps. What can I/we do to help you take your next step?
4. OPPORTUNITY: Do you want to keep meeting as a new small group during this 9-10 am hour? I have some more material that I did not have time to go over to help you get going...

### **IV. Homework Assignments:**

1. Read the Tryanny of the Urgent. Continue developing your life of devotion (what next steps are you being invited to consider?)
  
2. Pray through the Membership Commitments and ask God to reveal any places in your life you need to take the next steps. What is your next step regarding membership at FBC?

# Bonus Materials

## I. Understanding the body life of the Church

The Church is the body of Christ!

*<sup>4</sup> Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup> And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. <sup>7</sup> But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ... <sup>11</sup> But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills. <sup>12</sup> For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. <sup>13</sup> For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. <sup>14</sup> For the body is not one member, but many. ... <sup>18</sup> But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. <sup>19</sup> If they were all one member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> But now there are many members, but one body. ... <sup>26</sup> And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. <sup>27</sup> Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 11-14, 18-20, 26-27)*

The purpose of the body of Christ is found in who we are!

*<sup>4</sup> And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, <sup>5</sup> you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ... <sup>9</sup> But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR GOD'S OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; <sup>10</sup> for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY. (1 Peter 2:4-5, 9-10)*

Every member of the body is called to ministry!

1. I've been created for ministry!

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

2. I've been saved for ministry!

*"Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity." (2 Timothy 1:8-9)*

3. I've been appointed for ministry!



*"You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain..." (John 15:16)*

*"Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called." (Ephesians 4:1)*

4. I've been gifted for ministry!

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

5. I've been authorized for ministry!

*"And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'" (Matthew 28:18-20)*

6. The body of Christ needs my ministry!

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

*"We are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love." (Ephesians 4:15-16)*

7. I am accountable for my ministry!

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

*The parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30)*

8. I will be rewarded for my ministry!

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

*"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'" (Matthew 25:23)*

**The heart of Christian leadership is service!**

*<sup>25</sup>But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup>It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, <sup>27</sup>and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; <sup>28</sup>just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:25-28)*

**The job description of spiritual leadership is equipping the body!**

*<sup>11</sup>And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; <sup>13</sup>until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. <sup>14</sup>As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; <sup>15</sup>but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, <sup>16</sup>from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love. (Ephesians 4:11-16)*

**In finding your ministry, function follows form! (S-H-A-P-E)**

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

**S = Spiritual Gifts  
H = Heart (passions)  
A = Abilities  
P = Personality  
E = Experiences**

**Let's Discuss the different spiritual gifts (see results from your inventory list).**

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

The Bible does not lock us into tight restrictions as to the number of spiritual gifts, or even their definitions. The four major lists of gifts are found in...

Romans 12:3-8  
1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 27-31  
Ephesians 4:11-12  
1 Peter 4:9-11

## Using spiritual gifts without love is worthless!

*“If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.” (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)*

### I. The Mission of God & Your place in it

Discuss handout: "A Missional Perspective"

### II. Discovering your mission

A life mission statement grounded in Scripture gives your life direction no matter what you are going through. It serves as your compass and decision-making criteria. We all have them whether we take the time to know what guides us or not.

#### *What directs your steps?*

Joshua stated in Joshua 24:15, “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

John the Baptist stated in John 3:30, “He must increase, but I must decrease.”

Jesus Christ stated in Luke 19:10, “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

The Apostle Paul stated in Philippians 3:8-10, “More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.”

#### **Exercise: Develop your own life mission statement with key verses.**

#### *What is your life mission?*

My life mission is “to give God maximum glory.”

#### *What are some key verses in your life?*

Key verses in my life are John 3:30; John 15:16; Galatians 2:20; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Colossians 3:23; and Psalm 119:105 to get the list started.

**Homework: memorize your mission statement and key verses.**

### **III. The Work of God through the Holy Spirit**

The Promise of Discipleship is the work of God through the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. Listen to Mark 1:17, “And Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” Jesus promises to change us if we follow Him and that process happens through the power of the Holy Spirit. Starting with Salvation, through Sanctification, and completed in Glorification the Holy Spirit is essential to the Christian’s life.

“In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promises, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory” (Ephesians 1:13-14).

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you” (John 14:26).

“But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment” (John 16:7-8).

Through the Holy Spirit, God is present in believers’ lives. He helps us live a Christian life (Romans 8) with Christ-like character (Galatians 5:22-23); He helps us speak (Matthew 10:19-20) and pray (Romans 8:26-27); He gives us gifts (1 Corinthians 12) and unites us to other believers (Ephesians 4) to build the body of Christ. And more...

**Homework: Research and get to know the Holy Spirit from the Bible and grow in your personal experience of Him in your life.**

*What is the next step in your life as a disciple of Jesus Christ?*

**Final Exercise: Read, study, and reflect on each of the following Scripture references:**

*“He has planted eternity in the human heart.” (Ecclesiastes 3:11)*

*“For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son so that anyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)*

*“God was in Christ, restoring the world to himself...” (2 Corinthians 5:19a)*

*“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.” (Luke 19:10)*

*“I have come as a Light, I must tell the Good News about God's kingdom...This is what I was sent to do.” (Luke 4:43)*

*Jesus prayed to the Father: “In the same way that you gave me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world.” (John 17:18)*

*“As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” (John 20:21)*

*“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)*

*“... you must warn them so they may live. If you don't speak out to warn the wicked to stop their evil ways, they will die in their sin. But I will hold you responsible for their death.” (Ezekiel 3:18)*

*“And God has given us the privilege of urging everyone to come into his favor and be reconciled to him... This is the wonderful message he has given us to tell others. We are Christ's ambassadors.” (2 Corinthians 5:18b)*

*“The Good News about God's kingdom will be preached in all the world, to every nation. Then the end will come.” (Matthew 24:14)*

*“I want to carry out the mission I received from the Lord Jesus - the mission of testifying to the Good News of God's kindness.” (Acts 20:24)*

*“You are the ones chosen by God... God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you.” (1 Peter 2:9)*

*“...He has given us this message of restored relationships to tell others. Therefore, we are Christ's representatives.” (2 Corinthians 5:19b-20)*

*“We cannot stop telling about the wonderful things we have seen and heard.” (Acts 4:20)*

*“Listen carefully. I'm speaking sober truth to you. I speak only of what I know by experience; I give witness only to what I have seen with my own eyes. There is nothing secondhand here, no hearsay.” (John 3:11)*

***“Let the whole world know what he has done for you.” (Psalm 105:1b)***

***“Every day tell how he saves us. Tell the nations of his glory; tell all peoples the miracles he does.” (Psalm 96:2-3)***

***“But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.” (John 1:12)***

***“Everything you say should be kind and well thought out so that you know how to answer everyone.” (Colossians 4:6)***

***“Pray for me that when I speak, God will give me words so that I can tell the secret of the Good News without fear.” (Ephesians 6:19)***

***“A wise, mature person is known for his understanding. The more pleasant his words, the more persuasive he is.” (Proverbs 16:21)***

***“Be gracious in your speech. The goal is to bring out the best in others in a conversation, not put them down, not cut them out.” (Colossians 4:6)***

***“Jesus always used stories and illustrations like these when speaking to the crowds. In fact, he never spoke to them without using such parables.” (Matthew 13:34)***

***“Because we loved you, we were happy to share not only God's Good News with you, but even our own lives.” (1 Thessalonians 2:8)***

***“For when we brought you the Good News, it was not only with words but also with power, for the Holy Spirit gave you full assurance that what we said was true.” (1 Thessalonians 1:5a)***

***“Go home to your family and friends. Tell them how much the Lord has done for you and how he has had mercy on you.” (Mark 5:19)***

***Family (Jn.1:40-46), Coworkers (Acts 18:1-4), Friends (Jn. 4:39-42), People who cross our paths (Jn. 4:4-30)***

***“To the Jews I became like a Jew to win the Jews...to those who are without the law I became like a person who is without the law... to those who are weak became weak so I could win the weak. I have become all things to all people so I could save some of them in any way possible. I do all this because of the Good News and so I can share in its blessings.” (1 Corinthians 9:20-23)***

***“...Whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so that he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him. I do this to get the Gospel to them and also for the blessing I myself receive when I see them come to Christ.” (1 Corinthians 9:22b-23)***

*“With many stories like these, he presented his message to them, fitting the stories to their experience and maturity.” (Mark 4:33)*

*“Be wise in the way you act toward those who are not believers...” (Colossians 4:5)*

*“I want to finish the race I'm running. I want to carry out the mission I received from the Lord Jesus-- the mission of testifying to the Good News of God's kindness.” (Acts 20:24)*

*Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I, Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8)*