



Take Your Next Step with Jesus

Helping people become more like Jesus Christ



NOT
TODAY
SATAN

Our Guide

This guide exists to move every person to spiritual maturity in Christ. It captures how Harvest Ministries intentionally walks with every attendee on their journey to live an authentic life that follows Jesus.

Our Why

We believe that everyone should be in active pursuit of Jesus no matter the age or stage of life. God has called us to equip the saints for the work of ministry and for the building up of the body of Christ.

Our Goal

Our current discipleship pathway emphasizes our value of Kingdom Multiplication. As a result, our goal is to guide and nurture every person into spiritual maturity through a Next Steps Pathway that leads to them fully following Jesus.

Our Next Steps

- 01 Salvation: Faith in Jesus**
- 02 Baptism: Public Declaration of Faith**
- 03 Serving: Volunteer in the Local Church**
- 04 Membership: Joining a Local Church**
- 05 Giving: Generosity to the Local Church**
- 06 Groups: From Rows to Circles**
- 07 Evangelism: Share Your Testimony**

01 Salvation

Faith in Jesus

Who is Jesus Christ?

Jesus Christ is the Eternal Son of God – who entered the human race by giving up His divine attributes but not His divine essence and took on human form. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and is fully God and fully man. He lived a life of perfect obedience, without sin, to the Father and voluntarily fulfilled the will of God by laying down His life as the atoning sacrifice for humanity's sin. Having fully satisfied divine justice, He achieved salvation for all who place their trust in Him. Raised from the dead by God, He ascended to heaven and is currently interceding on our behalf, awaiting His return to fulfill God's kingdom and redemptive plan. (Isaiah 53:9; Matthew 1:23; Luke 24:50-53; John 1:1-5, 14; Acts 1:9-11; Romans 1:3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 4:4-6; Philippians 2:5-8; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 2:21-22; 1 John 3:5; 4:2)

What is Sin?

We believe that humanity was created in the image of God to multiply, fill, and subdue the earth but was separated from God because of sin (i.e. The Fall). As a result, the image of God in man became damaged but not erased. Therefore, all human beings are born with a sinful nature and are unable to function in moral responsibility before God. We need spiritual regeneration before we can become what God meant us to be and will be redeemed and restored when Christ returns. (Genesis 1:26-30; 2:7, 21-24; 3; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 44:24; 45:12; 53:6a; 59:1-2; Romans 3:10-12; 5:12-21; 6:23; 13:2; Ephesians 2:1-2; 6:11-12; James 4:17; 1 Peter 1:3; 1 John 2:16-17; Revelation 21:3-5)

01 Salvation

Faith in Jesus

What is Salvation? Why do we need it?

We believe that salvation is a free gift of God that comes by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. Humans are fallen beings completely dead in their sin and unable to save themselves. One achieves salvation at the moment they put their faith in Christ believing that He died upon the cross as a sinless substitute for sinners of all ages and times and was raised from the dead. Only those who respond to God's gift of grace through Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection are justified and will inherit eternal salvation. Upon a confession of faith in Christ, humans are regenerated through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit becoming new creations in Christ and put their faith into action through sanctification. (Mark 10:45; Luke 19:10; John 1:12; 3:16; 10:28-29; 14:6; Acts 2:21; 4:12; Romans 1:16-17; 5:1, 8-9, 15-17; 6:23; 8:2, 9-11, 38-39; 10:9-13; 1 Corinthians 6:20; 2 Corinthians 1:9-10; 5:17; Galatians 2:16, 20; Ephesians 2:1-9; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 2:13; 2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 3:5; Hebrews 6:11; 7:25; 9:28; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:3-5)



01 Salvation

Faith in Jesus

The Gospel

God's Design (Genesis 1:27-31; Psalm 19:1)

God created the world perfectly where everything and everyone lived in perfect harmony. God made every person with a purpose: to know Him and make Him known.

Sin (Romans 3:23; 6:23)

As a result of pride, humanity ignored God's original design and sinned by selfishly wanting to do things our own way. Everyone has sinned and fallen short of God's glory. The consequence of sin is separation from God, in this life and for all eternity.

Brokenness (Romans 1:25)

Sin has produced brokenness in the world including violence, abuse, anxiety, destruction, natural disasters, and so much more. When we realize our brokenness, we try to fix it on our own but ultimately cannot. That forces us to look towards something or someone greater.

Redemption & Restoration (John 3:16; Romans 5:8; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 2:8-10)

Jesus Christ is that someone greater. This is GOOD NEWS because as an act of love, God did not leave us in our brokenness. God sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to live in a human body and be our example of what living perfect and holy is supposed to look like according to God's Design. Our relationship with God has been restored through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ came to rescue us from our sin.

01 Salvation

Faith in Jesus

The Gospel Response

Repent & Believe (Mark 1:15; Romans 10:9-13)

The GOOD NEWS is only good if we move beyond hearing it to professing it with our mouth and believing it in our heart. **We must confess our sinful brokenness and stop trusting ourselves but trust in God alone. We must ask forgiveness and receive new life in Christ then follow Him daily.** This response helps us discover and live our true purpose in life: to know God and make God known.



02 Baptism

Public Declaration of Faith in Jesus Christ

What is Baptism?

Baptism is a public profession of Jesus as our Savior & Lord before the Church. It is the immediate Next Step after Salvation. It does not save us; however, it does allow us to spiritually identify with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Why should you be Baptized?

There are 4 reasons why you should be baptized:

1. To OBEY Christ's Command
2. To PUBLICLY PROFESS Faith in Christ
3. To COMMIT to Christ's People
4. To MODEL Jesus baptism demonstrating His own obedience, humility, and the filling of the Holy Spirit



What is Believer's Baptism?

Believer's Baptism is both a symbolic and vital step of obedience in professing our conversion and new life in Jesus Christ, which He also commands us to do. **We hold that Baptism, which is the ceremonial process of being dipped into water during a time of worship before the whole church body, is a beautiful sign and symbol of Christ's own death, burial, and resurrection.** When we are each baptized, symbolically we also are being "buried" into the water and then raised out of the water which symbolizes our "resurrection" to new life in Jesus Christ. We baptize individuals who can articulate their conversion experience. (Matthew 3:6, 13-17; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22; 12:8; Acts 2:38-41; 8:35-38; 10:47-48; 22:16; Romans 6:4-11; Colossians 2:12; 1 Peter 3:21; 1 John 2:3)

02 Baptism & Communion

Public Declaration of Faith in Jesus Christ

What is Believer's Baptism? (continued)

Moreover, the word “Baptize” means to dip, immerse, sink, or plunge. The ancient Greek Word “Baptizo” cannot mean to pour-out/over or to sprinkle. The Bible nowhere uses pour/sprinkle as a mode of baptism. Baptize is always used in the New Testament as being “immersed” or dunked.

Why Believer's Baptism?

We affirm the biblical teaching that only professed Believers, (i.e. those who are old enough to profess that they have had a conversion experience and have given their lives fully to Jesus Christ for salvation) – should be baptized. AFTER, we have received Christ as Savior, we are called to publicly identify with other Believers within the Church that Jesus has saved us. The symbolic act of baptism declares publicly that we desire to walk in obedience with Him. Therefore, the act of Believer's Baptism is commanded in Scripture for all believers, is a symbolic act for our spiritual resurrection and identification with Christ's baptism, and is a beautiful public profession that we stand with other Believers of all ages as born-again followers of Christ.

What is Communion?

We believe the local church was commanded by the Lord Jesus Christ to remember His death until He returns by taking communion (the Lord's Supper), a symbolic act of obedience, with one another preceded by a time of self-examination. (Matthew 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 10:16; 11:23-29)



03 Service

Volunteer in the Local Church

Why is serving important?

Jesus is the greatest example of a servant leader as Mark 10:45 states, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

There are 4 main ways a believer can serve the local church:

- Attend and be active in Sunday worship experiences
- Display irresistible hospitality inside and outside the church
- Share the gospel with non-believers
- Make disciples who then make disciples

Servant Leaders display 6 main qualities:

- They show **INITIATIVE**
- They come **PEACEABLE**
- They have **NO HIDDEN AGENDA**
- They make **SACRIFICES**
- They stick to **COMMITMENTS**
- They display **HUMILITY**



Servant Leaders who excel at Harvest display the following:

01 Self-Aware

03 Worship Walkers

05 Grateful Posture

02 Problem Solvers

04 Passion to Serve

06 Joyous Spirit

03 Service

Volunteer in the Local Church

Where can I serve at Harvest?

01 Administration

Admin / Operations / Finance

03 Care & Prayer

Care / Prayer / Benevolence

05 Connections

Hospitality / Next Steps

07 Health & Safety

Medical / Security

09 Mobilization

Setup / Teardown

02 Adults Ministries

Bible Study / Groups / Life-Stages

04 Communications

Marketing / Website / Social Media

06 Creative Arts

Worship / Production / Dance

08 Missions & Outreach

Local, State, & Global / Events

10 Next Gen

Kids / Students



04 Membership

Joining a Local Church: The Body of Jesus Christ

What is the Church?

There is one true Church universal (the body of Christ), consisting of all who recognize Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. The body of Christ finds expression as local churches where those who have been regenerated by the Spirit come together. Operating under the direction of Jesus as Lord and Head of His body and through Godly servant leadership, believers devote themselves to worship, prayer, teaching of the Word, observance of baptism and communion, fellowship, service to the body and outreach to the lost. (Matthew 16:18; 28:18-20; Acts 2:42-47; 1 Corinthians 12:4-13, 27; Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:1-16)

Church membership is a mutual, self-conscious commitment between a local church and a Christian in which the church affirms and cares for the Christian, and the Christian submits to the cares for the church.

What does the Bible say about Membership?

Becoming a member at Harvest Ministries is about becoming part of a family, not putting your name on a roll or joining a club. The Bible shares many examples that describe the relationship of the church to Jesus. The church is described as:

- The **BODY OF CHRIST** (1 Corinthians 5:12)
- The **BRIDE OF CHRIST** (Ephesians 5:22-23)
- Christ's **EMBASSY** (2 Corinthians 5:20)
- Christ's **FLOCK** (Psalm 95:7; 1 Peter 2:25; 5:2)
- **STONES** in a Spiritual House (1 Peter 2:5)

04 Membership

Joining a Local Church: The Body of Jesus Christ

Why should I join a local church?

Membership is also implied in many instances in the Bible:

- Widows were cared for and enrolled on a list (Acts 6:1-2; 1 Timothy 5:9)
- Membership records were diligently kept (Acts 1:15; 2:38)
- Unique actions were carried out by church members (Acts 2:42-47)
- There's a distinction between those in the church and those not (1 John 2:19)
- Church discipline leads to the removal from the fellowship (1 Corinthians 5:2)
- Church discipline is done as a collective (2 Corinthians 2:6)
- There's a special encouragement within the church body (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Why should I become a member at a church? There are 3 main reasons for to become a church member:

- So that you can be **DEVELOPED** (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- So that you can be **SHAPED** (Isaiah 64:8)
- So that you can be **INSTRUCTED** (Galatians 6:6)

What does becoming a church member communicate to God?

- It communicates that "I can make deep commitments."
- It communicates that "I am a contributor here, not a consumer."
- It communicates that "I have an awareness that I am NOT self-sufficient."
- It communicates that "I am willingly placing myself under leadership."
- It communicates that "I choose to live counter cultural."

04 Membership

Joining a Local Church: The Body of Jesus Christ

Why should I join a local church? (continued)

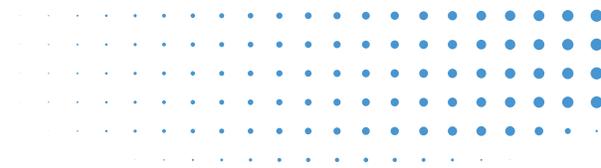
What are the benefits of church membership?

- Pastoral Care (1 Peter 5:2)
- Spiritual Health (Philippians 2:3)
- Contributor to Legacy Building (Psalm 78:5-8)
- Adds Value to Yourself (Romans 12:4-5)
- Gives Opportunity for Obedience and then Blessings (Ephesians 5:25)
- Benevolence (Galatians 6:10)
- Strategically Positions You to be on Mission (Matthew 28:19)

How do I become a member at Harvest?

1. Be a believer in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
2. Have experienced Baptism by water immersion.
3. Complete our Membership application.
4. Complete a membership interview to help you get connected within the church.
5. Sign our Membership Covenant.





05 Giving

Generosity to the Local Church

Why should we give?

The world wants to put money and material things to compete with Jesus (Matthew 6:24) for our devotion. One way to show we're in #HarvestMode is with our treasures. Giving allows us to demonstrate that He is more important to us than material things. Christians should be the most generous people on the planet (2 Corinthians 9:6), supporting worthy causes and the local church. There is no organization with more potential to change the world than the local church (Ephesians 3:10). Let's join together by stewarding our resources well for the good of others and to glorify God!

The Bible says in Matthew 6:24 that the top competitor for our commitment to Jesus is money. Giving strengthens our devotion to Christ and frees us to live open-handedly with the gifts God gives us. We trust in Him and His provision instead of our perceived self-sufficiency. As people of faith, we give faithfully and generously.

God's Generosity Pathway

We encourage every believer to take their Next Step in giving according to God's Generosity Pathway:

Beginning Giver – This is giving to the local church for the first time.

Advancing Giver – This is giving with intentionality on a regular basis.

Tithing Giver – This is giving 10% (tithe) of total gross income regularly.

Expanding Giver – This is giving an offering of any amount above the tithe.

Extravagant Giver – This is giving an offering of any amount above the tithe from stored resources (i.e. investments, real estate, cryptocurrency, wills and trusts, etc.)

06 Groups

Move From Rows to Circles in the Local Church

Why should I join a group?

The best environment for life transformation in Christ is one of both truth and love. We want every person to be deeply engaged in relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ. This builds community and opportunities to care for one another as we grow closer to Christ.

In the Book of Acts, there was tremendous growth of the first church in Jerusalem because small groups meetings in homes laid the foundation. Our desire is for groups to always be inviting and foster authentic and life-giving discussions for personal discipleship and spiritual growth. Groups include Bible Studies, Serve Teams, Clusters, and other events that move us from rows to circles. Ask leadership about either joining or leading a Bible Study, Serve Team, or Cluster.



07 Evangelism

Share Your Testimony

What is Evangelism?

Evangelism is **teaching** the **gospel** with the **aim** to **persuade**. See definitions below to better understand what evangelism is.

- **Teach** – Teaching helps to remove obstacles, answer questions, correct misconceptions, and reveal the gospel's truth that Jesus is at the center of the Christian faith.
- **Gospel** – This is the message of what God achieved in Christ that leads us to salvation. (refer back to “Salvation: The Gospel”)
- **Aim** – Evangelism is not about simply the transfer of information but rather the bringing about of life transformation.
- **Persuade** – Evangelism is not about manipulation or coercion but rather how we speak and what we say should be filled with grace.

How to Evangelize & Share Your Testimony

Here are a few ways to evangelize or share the gospel with others:

1. **3 Circles** (<https://vimeo.com/227782208>)
2. **One Verse Evangelism** (<https://youtu.be/rHnSIHlg4XI>)
3. **Roman's Road** (<https://youtu.be/K9wSOwMYAhA>)

When evangelizing, it's encouraged to share your testimony, which is simply a personal account of how God has worked in your life. Your testimony can be shared by answering 3 simple questions:

1. What was my life like **BEFORE** Christ?
2. When did I **ACCEPT** Christ?
3. What is my life like now **WITH** Christ?

By answering these 3 questions, you are sharing a personal account of how God has worked in your life.

Final Thoughts

A Few More Things

Spiritual Disciplines

Spiritual disciplines are ways to we connect with God personally and corporately.

- **Prayer & Devotion** – Part of having a flourishing journey with God is to consistently talk with Him through prayer and by reading His Word. Prayer is how we speak to God and the Bible is how God speaks to us. Keeping these lines of communication open and regular are vital to spiritual formation.
- **Church Attendance** – Being a child of God works best when we engage with His family. We encourage you to attend worship services regularly so that we can get to know you, you can get to know us, and we can all grow together in the Lord.

The Bible

The Bible or "Scripture" is the word of God. All of Scripture is inspired by God as a revelation of Himself to human writers, by no means of their own, but under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Since God is the only divine Author, the words of Scripture are true and free from error in their original form. Scripture is the supreme and final authority for believers in any age, sufficient for saving knowledge and godly living, and complete in its 66 books (Old and New Testaments), making it profitable for practical instruction and conduct. All Scripture, when properly read and understood, leads to Jesus Christ as it pertains to His person and work and first and second coming, making Him our true living hope. (Psalms 19:7-9, 119:105, 142, 160; Isaiah 34:16, 55:11; Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 13:10; Luke 24:7; John 1:1-4, 14-18, 3:16-21, 5:39, 17:17; Acts 1:16, 17:2-3, 11, 18:28, 26:22-23; Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 2:12-13, 10:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Peter 1:10-12, 20-25; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

Take Your Next Step

Grow Closer to Jesus Today!

Ready to Accept Christ or Get Baptized?

Take your Next Step through one of the following:

- Let church leadership know
- Visit harvestministries.org/following-jesus
- Text “JESUS” or “BAPTISM” to 80797



Ready to Serve on our Dream Team?

Take your Next Step through one of the following:

- Let church leadership know or scan QR code
- Visit harvestministries.org/volunteer
- Text “SERVE” to 80797



Ready to Become a Member?

Take your Next Step through one of the following:

- Let church leadership know
- Visit harvestministries.org/membership
- Text “MEMBER” to 80797



Ready to Give?

Take your Next Step through one of the following:

- Visit harvestministries.org/give
- Text “GIVE” to 80797



Ready to Join a Group?

Take your Next Step through one of the following:

- Let church leadership know or scan QR code
- Visit harvestministries.org/clusters





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