

# The Step of Belonging

Class Objective: To help each person understand what it means and to make a commitment to \_\_\_\_\_ in this local church family.

To belong means that you have decided to become an active **member** of this local church family. When Jesus called his very first disciples he said, "Come follow me", clearly indicating the idea of belonging and joining his mission and movement. A "fully trained" disciple has always been a person that has committed to Christ's mission and movement. A person would never be considered a "fully trained" disciple that was not devoted and committed to a local fellowship of believers. In this step, you will learn what it means to be a member of this church and be encouraged to make a commitment to membership.

*"So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And they devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (Acts 2:41,42)*

In the New Testament Church the idea of being devoted to the mission and movement of Jesus was what every disciple did. The idea of belonging was essential to what it meant to be a disciple.

## **Belonging to the Church Universally: "A Member of a Big Family"**

Jesus wants you to join his mission and his movement. He wants you to be committed and devoted to belonging to him and his church. When you join the church universally that means you become a part of the church made up of all believers throughout all of history. The universal church has no boundaries. It transcends time and space. It encompasses all believers over all time. Belonging to the universal church involves two steps.

## 2 Steps for Belonging to the Church Universal

1. \_\_\_\_\_ : Salvation is essential for belonging to the universal church. A person cannot be a member of the family of God until he/she make a personal commitment to accept Jesus Christ as he/she Savior and Lord.

### How to become a Christian

\_\_\_\_\_ you need Christ. (Romans 3:23)

\_\_\_\_\_ in Christ by Faith. (Ephesians 2:8,9)

\_\_\_\_\_ your life to Christ. (Romans 10:9)

*Action Step: Accept Christ as your Savior and Lord.*

2. \_\_\_\_\_ : Biblical baptism (by immersion and after conversion) is important but not essential for becoming a member of the universal church.

### What is biblical baptism?

An act of \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ.

An outward \_\_\_\_\_ of an inward change.

Takes place \_\_\_\_\_ salvation not before.

*Action Step: Follow Christ's example of baptism.*

### **Belonging to the Church Locally: "A Member of Small Family"**

Jesus wants you to be a part of his mission and movement by joining a local body of believers in a set place at a set time in history. When you join a local church, you commit yourself to being involved with a group of fellow believers that exist in a specific

location during a set time in history. Belonging to a local church involves two steps.

## 2 Steps for Belonging to a Local Church

1. \_\_\_\_\_ : Every local church has theological and philosophical beliefs. In order to have unity in the local church it is essential that members be in agreement with several theological and philosophical areas of ministry. These areas include doctrine, mission, strategy, values, and structure.

### **Our Beliefs:** Our Seven Essentials Doctrines

We believe the \_\_\_\_\_ is the inspired, inerrant Word of God.

We believe there is only \_\_\_\_\_ true and living God.

We believe that \_\_\_\_\_ is God in the flesh, and he died and rose again.

We believe the Holy Spirit is \_\_\_\_\_ at work in the world today.

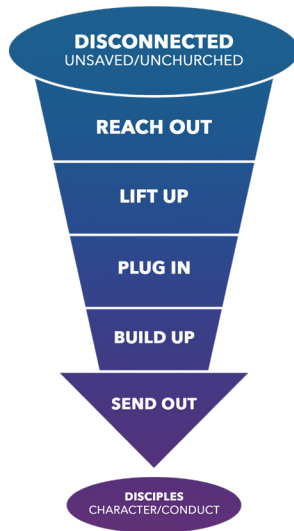
We believe that \_\_\_\_\_ is lost and separated from God.

We believe \_\_\_\_\_ if a free gift of God's grace.

We believe everyone exists for all \_\_\_\_\_ in heaven or hell.

**Our Mission:** To \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ disciples of Jesus Christ.  
(Matthew 22:37-39 and Matthew 28:19-20)

**Our Strategy:** To help untrained seekers become disciples that are “fully trained.” (Luke 6:40)



**Our Values:** We hold to ten core values.

C - \_\_\_\_\_ Relevant Ministry

R - \_\_\_\_\_ Driven

O - \_\_\_\_\_ for Growth

S - \_\_\_\_\_ Groups Prioritized

S - \_\_\_\_\_ Qualified Leaders

R - \_\_\_\_\_ on Prayer, Faith, and the Holy Spirit

O - \_\_\_\_\_ by Gifts, and Passion

A - \_\_\_\_\_ of Acceptance

D - \_\_\_\_\_ Making Focus

S - \_\_\_\_\_ Authority

**Our Structure:** The way our church is organized.

We are led by a \_\_\_\_\_ and staff

We are overseen by an \_\_\_\_\_ team

We approve Elders and Budget \_\_\_\_\_

We practice \_\_\_\_\_ and integrity

We \_\_\_\_\_ unity and exercise discipline

We \_\_\_\_\_ with Southern Baptist

2. \_\_\_\_\_ : Every local church needs participation to accomplish Christ's mission. The New Testament teaches that church participation involves devotion in four ways: being devoted to a large group, a small group, serving, and supporting. We believe involvement in a local church means being committed to all four expressions of a church membership.

In Worship: We experience God!

In Small Group: We grow and care!

In Ministry Teams: We serve and help others!

In Giving: We support ministry and honor God!

### **How Do I Become a Member?**

Share your story of salvation and baptism.

Agree to our beliefs, mission, strategy, values, & structure.

Identify with a small group.

Fill out a membership form (Qualified Children 18 & under).

Receive a letter of confirmation.

## Notes

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