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## Session One • MISSION

### • INTRODUCTION

We are delighted that you have decided to join us in this four-week *FIRST STEP* seminar to learn more about FAIRWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH. This seminar is designed to introduce you to Fairway and help you on your journey of becoming like our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

If you've been on your spiritual journey for some time now, some of the content of these lessons may be familiar. For you who are new in your faith or new to FCC, this seminar will help you discover what it means to be a follower of Jesus and to be a part of His Church.

So, feel free to ask questions, and I will do my best to answer them. I want you to feel at home here at Fairway, so that you can make a wise choice about where God is leading you.

### • INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

We are intentional about discipleship because Jesus was intentional about discipleship. After His resurrection from the dead and just before He ascended to His Father, He met with His disciples on a mountain top in Galilee and gave them the Great Commission,

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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 that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20, ESV)

In 1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish culture, a disciple was considered something like an apprentice in our day. A disciple of a Jewish Rabbi would follow his chosen teacher in order to listen, learn, and obey with the view of ultimately becoming like his teacher. Jesus once said, "A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when

he is fully trained will be like his teacher” (Luke 6:40, ESV). We want to challenge people to become fully devoted followers of Jesus! Therefore, we make it our highest priority to help people on their *Discipleship Journey* to become more and more like Him. Below is how we have chosen to map the “journey”.



The **mission** of Fairway Christian Church is to **GO** into our community, **SOW** the gospel and **GROW** disciples who will change the world! Our mission helps us stay focused on growing as disciples into the image of Jesus in such a way that we learn how to reproduce and **multiply** disciples just like the 1<sup>st</sup> century church did! The church’s mandate stands until Jesus returns to take us all home!

## • OUR VISION

Because discipleship is so important, we have set our *vision to become a premier disciple-making church in The Villages and Tri-county area*. Jesus does not call us to make a “one-time” decision to simply obey the gospel and be saved, but to begin a life-long journey of discipleship: learning, growing, serving, and becoming more and more like the Master. Remember when our Lord found Philip in Galilee and said, “**Follow me?**” (John 1:43) He found Matthew in a tax booth and said, “**Follow me.**” (Matthew 9:9) In Galilee, Jesus said to Simon Peter and Andrew, “**Follow me.**”



## Session Two • IDENTITY

### • WHAT KIND OF CHURCH IS THIS?

**THE CHURCH FORMED.** Jesus told His disciples in Matthew 16:18, *“On this rock (Peter’s confession of faith in Christ) I will build My Church, and the gates of Hell will not prevail against it.”* That promise was fulfilled in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost in 30 A.D. The Holy Spirit filled the disciples and empowered them to speak about the resurrection of Christ in languages all the people could understand! On that day, 3,000 people came to believe in Jesus as the Messiah, repented, and were baptized. The Church was born, and *“The Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”* (Acts 2:47)

The church spread rapidly throughout Judea and Samaria, and then across the Roman Empire to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). The church devoted herself to the apostle’s doctrine, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer (Acts 2:42). The structure of the early church was a model of simplicity. Elders were appointed as spiritual overseers of each local congregation (Acts 14:23; Phil. 1:1) with Deacons serving as needed (Phil. 1:1). Evangelists and elders preached and taught (Eph. 4:11-12, 5:17; 1 Tim. 3:2; 2 Tim. 4:1-5). There was nothing binding the churches together beyond their unity built on the foundation of the apostle’s doctrine (Acts 2:42; Eph. 3:20), fellowship, and the mandate to make disciples.

**THE CHURCH INSTITUTIONALIZED.** Doctrinal controversies within the church and persecution by the Roman state during the centuries following the death of the apostles led to a failure of succeeding generations to consistently follow the apostolic pattern laid out in the New Testament. In 325 A.D. the Emperor Constantine made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire, and accommodation replaced persecution, which provided fertile ground for church and state entanglement. This dangerous partnership evolved into the powerful **Roman Catholic Church**. Subsequently, the scriptures became buried under layers of ritual, man-made creeds and traditions, and the authority of scripture gave way to the authority of corrupt human leaders which resulted in further erosion of basic Scriptural doctrines and NT practices.

The period between 400 – 1500 AD became known as the **Dark Ages** - a time during which human authority displaced divine authority and the Bible was a closed book to the common man.

**THE CHURCH REFORMED.** By the 16<sup>th</sup> century, many were questioning the direction, practices, and power of the Roman Catholic Church and sought to “reform” it. These reformers soon became “protesters” as the church proved resistant to any change. Ultimately a severance with the Catholic Church took place and many “reformed” churches were established. This “protest movement” was led by men like Martin Luther in Germany, 1530; John Calvin of Switzerland, 1536; John Knox in Scotland, 1550. Thus, this era, from 1500 to 1800, is known as the **Protestant Reformation**.

Although we can be thankful the Protestant Reformation exposed the abuses of the Catholic Church and gave the Bible back to all people, it sought to “reform” the church, not “restore” the apostolic church. Being loosed from the Roman Catholic church, further division abounded as beliefs and interpretations differed, and systems of theology divided the churches. This gave rise to the growing acceptance of a church divided into “Denominations” which has since become accepted as a reality the church must live with, in spite of Jesus’ earnest prayers for unity! (See John 17:20, 23; Acts 4:32; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Ephesians 4:3, 13)

**THE CHURCH RESTORED.** In the early 1800s, there arose in the United States, a spontaneous movement arose among those involved in denominational churches and shared a common objective: to “restore” the apostolic teachings and practices as given in the New Testament. This movement became known as the **Restoration Movement**, and spread like wildfire across the early frontier, expanded to major cities, and has continued to grow to this day birthing 1,000’s of independent congregations in the United States, and around the world. The churches of this movement are bound together not by denominational hierarchy, but by a cooperative fellowship of like-minded congregations.

## • FAIRWAY’S HISTORY

Fairway Christian Church is part of the “Restoration Movement” and was birthed from the vision of four ministers from four Lake County congregations. In the

summer of 1998, Bill Twaddell was called to lead this new church plant.

The first worship service was held in the La Hacienda Conference Center in Spanish Springs on Easter Sunday, April 4, 1999, with 157 in attendance. In October 2001, services were moved to the Savannah Center, and the congregation moved into its completed church building on its new property on December 1, 2002. From the beginning, Fairway has enjoyed consistent growth. Mark Fessler became Fairway's second preacher in 2010.

By 2012, worship attendance was averaging 700 in 5 worship services before we moved into our new worship center in 2013. On Easter Sunday of that year, we welcomed 1,363 people to worship.

In October of 2020, Butch Gastfield was called to become the Preaching Minister. For twenty-three years God has truly blessed Fairway. He's not done with us yet! A gifted and well-experienced ministry staff and a mature Eldership partner together to lead Fairway in fulfilling the great commission of making disciples.

## • MISSIONS / OUTREACH

Fairway invests generously to support a variety of independent missionaries and para-church ministries overseas, stateside, and locally. Additional information about these missions is available in the brochure racks and on our website at [www.fairwaycc.org](http://www.fairwaycc.org).

- Christian Restoration Association was established for the furtherance of the gospel and the building of Churches of Christ according to the Biblical pattern.
- Fellowship of Associates Of Medical Evangelism is a Christian mission, bringing hope to other countries through medical evangelism.
- Good News Productions, Int. proclaims Christ through Bible-based media.
- Kerala Christian Mission is dedicated to preaching the Word, making disciples, training leaders, and serving the needy with the love of Christ in India.
- Lake Aurora Christian Camp provides Christian summer camps, teaching men, women, teens, and children the principles of the Christian Faith.



## Session Three • BELIEFS

### • CORE BIBLICAL BELIEFS

Fairway Christian Church believes what the Bible says. Below are the core biblical doctrines we believe as taught in the Bible:

#### About G

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three personalities: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God.

*“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1)*

**Additional Scriptures to Study:** Psalm 24:1-2; Matthew 28:19; Romans 11:33-36; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Psalm 90:1-2

#### About J

Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. He is fully human and fully divine—the incarnation of God. He was born of a virgin, lived a perfect and sinless life, was crucified for the sins of the world, and arose bodily from the grave, victorious over sin and death. He ascended to His Father in Heaven and will one day return as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

*“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross! Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:5-11)*

**Additional Scriptures:** Jn. 1:1-4; 1 Tim. 2:5-6; Matt. 1:20-23; Ro. 1:3-4; Heb. 1:1-3

## About the H\_\_\_\_\_ S\_\_\_\_\_

The Holy Spirit is fully God and active from the beginning of the world. He is given as an indwelling gift to every believer, and convicts, comforts, teaches, and empowers believers to live godly lives. He equips all believers with gifts to be used to build up the church. As followers of Christ, we strive to walk by the Holy Spirit daily.

*“And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.” (Romans 8:11)*

**Additional Scriptures:** Genesis 1:2; Acts 2:38; John 14:26; Romans 8; 1, 11; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; Galatians 5:16-26; Ephesians Titus 3:5

## About the B\_\_\_\_\_

We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, the written record of His supernatural revelation of Himself to man, absolute in its authority, complete in its revelation, and without error in its original documents. We maintain that the Bible alone is sufficient for our rule of faith and practice.

*“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)*

**Additional Scriptures:** Psalm 119; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 1:20-21

## About S\_\_\_\_\_

People are created in the image of God. However, our human nature has been marred by sin - an attitude of disobedience toward God and His laws, called “sin.” This sinful attitude severs us from a relationship with our holy and righteous Creator, which leads to a whole host of problems in life – the least of which is eternal separation from God. We are incapable of solving our sin problem.

*“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)*

**Additional Scriptures:** Genesis 1:26-27; Psalm 8:3-6; 1 John 3:4

## About S\_\_\_\_\_

Salvation, also called “being born again,” (John 3:7) is God’s free and undeserved gift to us, made possible by Christ’s atoning death on the cross. Salvation is by grace and received through faith in His Son Jesus Christ. The NT tells us to put our trust in Christ, repent of our sins, confess Jesus as Lord and Savior, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of sins.

*“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”  
(Ephesians 2:8-9)*

**Additional Scriptures:** Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:1-4; 10:9-10; Galatians 3:26-27; Romans 5:8-9; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21

## About the C\_\_\_\_\_

The church is the body of believers whose purpose is to glorify God by reaching the lost and training disciples to minister on behalf of Christ and make more disciples. The church is to be a community of believers bound together in love, through which other people are drawn to the Lord Jesus Christ.

*He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.  
(Matthew 16:15-18)*

**Additional Scriptures:** Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:42-47; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20; Ephesians 4:11-16; Colossians 1:15-18

## About E\_\_\_\_\_

Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence. People have been created to live eternally with God. However, if we ignore God’s offer of salvation, we have made the choice to spend eternity in Hell, separated from God by our sins. The Christian will spend eternity in Heaven with God through faith in Jesus Christ.

*“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23)*

About M \_\_\_\_\_, G \_\_\_\_\_, and S \_\_\_\_\_

We believe that God wonderfully (Psalm 139:14) and immutably creates each person in two distinct, complementary genders of male and female (Genesis 1:26-27) in His image. Therefore, we do not believe anyone has the right to reject their biological sex. To do so constitutes a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe God created and sanctioned marriage in the beginning (Gen. 2:18-25). We believe marriage to be the legally recognized and exclusive union between one man and one woman for life and reflects Christ's relationship with His church (Eph. 5:21-33). We believe any sexual intimacy outside of this exclusive union is forbidden by God. (Matthew 5:27-28; 1 Corinthians 7:1-5; Hebrews 13:4.)

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, and the use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matthew 15:18-20; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10.)

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Fairway Christian Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the Fairway Christian Church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Fairway Christian Church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. (Matthew 5:16; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8; 1 Peter 1:14-19, 9-12.)

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 2:38-41; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 2 Corinthians 7:10.)

We believe that every person deserves compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31.) Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture and is not acceptable behavior at Fairway Christian Church.

## • DIFFERENCES YOU MAY NOTICE

**BAPTISM.** We believe the New Testament teaches that baptism is for those who are capable of believing in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and repenting of their sins. Therefore, we do not perform “infant baptism”. Mark 16:16 says, “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” At the conclusion of the first gospel sermon preached by Peter on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2:38, many in the crowd were convicted and asked Peter the question, “What shall we do?” Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

We desire to follow the practice of the early church in baptizing penitent believers by immersing them in water (See Acts 8:38-39; 16:33). Just as Jesus died, was buried, and rose again, our baptism marks our death to sin, the burial of our old man/woman, and our resurrection to New Life!

*“Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” (Romans 6:3-4)*

According to the apostle’s doctrine, the purpose for baptism is for the forgiveness of sins and to receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38; 22:16). Baptism in and of itself does not save. Jesus Christ saves. Those who have followed the New Testament pattern of baptism by immersion may become a member of FCC.

*“In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.*

*(Colossians 2:11-12)*

**COMMUNION.** We understand that communion is a time to remember the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and to fellowship with other believers. The loaf and cup do not literally become the body and blood of Jesus but are simply reminders

of His crucifixion. Jesus said, *“Do This in Remembrance of Me.”*

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 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." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." (1 Corinthians 11:23-25)

Because we strive to model the apostolic church of the New Testament, we observe the Lord’s Supper every week just as they did.

*“On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight.”* (Acts 20:7)

It’s not our place to judge a person’s worthiness to partake. We encourage all who are believers to examine themselves and to participate.

Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. (1 Co. 11:27-29)

**ONCE SAVED, ALWAYS SAVED.** Though nothing can “snatch” our salvation from us, or cause us to “lose” our salvation, failure to “abide” in Christ through continued neglect can harden our hearts and cause us to “fall away”. We believe one can come to the place where they willingly choose to reject salvation. The writer speaks of this very thing in Hebrews 3:12-13,

*Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.*

In his letter to the Galatian church, Paul writes that if a believer in Christ returns to

the idea of living under law as a means of justification, they will be “severed from Christ” and he clearly states they “have fallen from grace” (5:2-4).

**REFORMED THEOLOGY / CALVINISM.** As a church we do not embrace or teach that system of theology known as “Reformed” theology or “Calvinism” as popularly explained by the acronym **TULIP**: **T**otal Depravity, **U**nconditional **E**lection, **L**imited atonement, **I**rresistible grace, and **P**erseverance of the saints. We do not believe it reflects an accurate Biblical theology.

**LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE.** The leadership structure of Fairway follows the plan set forth in the New Testament.

**The Church is a F\_\_\_\_\_.** The Bible says that the early church “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship.” (Acts 2:42) The Greek word for *fellowship* is *koinonia*, and means “sharing, participation, or communing.”

We are a fellowship of believers, not a D\_\_\_\_\_ or a R\_\_\_\_\_. Voting causes people to take sides and only divides the fellowship. The only things the congregation votes on are:

- Approval of Elders
- Selection of Senior Minister
- Purchase or Sale of Land or Buildings
- Changes in Church By-Laws

**The Church is a F\_\_\_\_\_.** Throughout the New Testament there are several references to our Personal Relationships to others. God is our F\_\_\_\_\_ and He has adopted us as His C\_\_\_\_\_ through His Son, our elder B\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus. We are related to God, to Jesus, and to others like a family. “Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So, Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers.” (Hebrews 2:11)

**The Church is a B\_\_\_\_\_.** In Christ we form one body and belong to one another and serve one another. Just as our physical body has a head that controls the movements and functions of our body parts, so Jesus is the Head of His Body, the Church, and every member is to be controlled by Him. “Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” (1 Corinthians 12:27-28)

**The Church is a F\_\_\_\_\_.** This was Jesus' favorite description of the Church. In John 21 Peter was told to feed and take care of His flock. Our structure is very simple. The Good Shepherd leads and feeds the flock through His Spirit and Word. The Elders (Shepherds/Pastors) and Ministry Staff of our church have been given the responsibility of leading and feeding the flock through the wisdom that the Good Shepherd gives them in His Word.

According to the New Testament, men who met the qualifications as laid out in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9 were qualified and selected to serve as elders. Three Words Used in New Testament to Refer to Church Leaders:

- Poimen - S\_\_\_\_\_ or P\_\_\_\_\_
- Presbuteros - E\_\_\_\_\_
- Episcopos - O\_\_\_\_\_

*"To the ELDERS among you, I appeal as a fellow ELDER, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be SHEPHERDS of God's flock that is under your care, serving as OVERSEERS — not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away."  
(1 Peter 5:1-4)*

You will note that whenever the word "elder" is mentioned in the New Testament, it is always P\_\_\_\_\_. Churches were not ruled by one elder, but a plurality of qualified, godly men, who together provided spiritual oversight to the church. (1 Timothy 5:17)

The New Testament also teaches that the church occasionally selected D\_\_\_\_\_ to serve as servants or helpers. They were to assist the elders of the church in carrying out the various jobs that needed to be done. (Acts 6:1-7) No specific duties are outlined in Scripture; they were to serve in whatever capacity they were needed. The Qualifications for Deacons are listed in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

Another important role in the New Testament church, which fulfilled leadership responsibilities was the E\_\_\_\_\_. The task of the ministers here at



## Session Four • CONNECTING

### • HOW DO I TAKE THE “FIRST STEP”?

If you are not a Christian and have never accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, the following examples are provided from the book of Acts for you to see what early converts did in order to become believers – disciples of Jesus.

It is important to understand that because of His great love, God makes salvation through grace available to all freely (Ephesians 2:8). Grace is contrary to works. While we cannot “work” to earn salvation (Ephesians 2:9), good works follow our salvation (Ephesians 2:10). Being “saved” is to become a Christian. Grace is a gift freely received. How, then, do you receive God’s grace for salvation?

The three examples of how people received salvation below come from the book of Acts.

#### 1) Acts 2:37-41

- After Peter’s sermon, the people realized they were sinners and deserving of God’s punishment (See v.36) and asked, “What shall we do?” This question shows they realized and had come to believe Jesus to be the Messiah – their Savior (they had “faith”).
- Peter, apostle of Christ, told them what to do: they were told to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.
- The apostle told them what would happen as a result: 1) Forgiveness of sins, 2) Gift of the Holy Spirit, and 3) added to the church (v. 41).
- Does this apply to you today? (See v. 39).

#### 2) Acts 8:35-39

- The Eunuch was reading Isaiah 53 – this scripture from the Old Testament prophesied the sacrifice of the Messiah (Jesus) for the sins of all people.
- Philip told this Eunuch the good news (i.e., gospel) about Jesus.
- As a result, the Eunuch asked to be baptized.

- What must have been included in this “good news” - Philip told the Eunuch? We are sinners and the Messiah (Jesus) died for us (what Isaiah 53 foretold), and we must repent of our sins, and be baptized (in the name of Jesus), just like in Acts 2:38.
- After this, the Eunuch went on his way rejoicing! Why?

3) Acts 16:30-34

- What was the question the Jailer asked Paul & Silas in v.30?
- What did Paul tell the Jailer in v.31? Believe in the Lord Jesus, and they spoke the word of the Lord to him and all his household.
- What did the Jailer and his household do as a result of hearing the “word of the Lord” in v. 33? He was *baptized at once, he and all his family*, and he rejoiced along with his entire household.
- Why did he and his entire household rejoice?

**According to the three examples above, what does the New Testament teach us about how to be saved: Have you done what the Bible teaches?**

**HOW DO I JOIN THIS FELLOWSHIP?** If you would like to be baptized into Christ, you may talk to one of our ministers or come forward at the close of our worship service during the “Invitation Song”, and we will plan for you to be baptized and welcome you into our family of believers upon a public profession of faith.

If you have already committed yourself to Jesus Christ by accepting Him as the Son of the living God, repenting of your sins, confessing Him as your Lord and Savior, and being united with Him in baptism (by immersion), then the Lord has added you to His Church. You already belong to the Body of Christ!

If you are already a baptized believer and you wish to become a part of this fellowship of disciples here at Fairway, simply step forward at the close of our worship service during the “Invitation Song” and a minister will take your confession and welcome you into our fellowship. Note: **Dual Membership** is available if you spend a portion of your year out of state. This provides you with the opportunity to maintain your membership in another church, but while you are here in Florida, you are a member of this fellowship.

In becoming a member of this local fellowship of believers at Fairway Christian Church, we expect you will be committed to...

- PROTECT THE U\_\_\_\_\_ OF MY CHURCH:
- By acting in love toward other members.
  - By refusing to gossip.
  - By following the church's leadership.

*"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus." (Romans 15:5)*

Additional Scriptures: 1 Peter 1:22; Ephesians 4:29; Hebrews 13:17

- SHARE THE R\_\_\_\_\_ OF MY CHURCH:
- By praying for its growth.
  - By inviting others to attend.
  - By welcoming those who visit.

*"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." (Mark 16:15)*

Additional Scriptures: 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Romans 15:7

- SERVE IN THE M\_\_\_\_\_ OF MY CHURCH:
- By discovering my gifts and talents.
  - By being equipped to serve in some needed capacity.
  - By developing a servant's heart.

*"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:10)*

Additional Scriptures: Ephesians 4:11-13; Philippians 2:3-4; Ephesians 6:7

- SUPPORT THE T\_\_\_\_\_ OF MY CHURCH:
- By attending faithfully.

- By “talking the talk” and “walking the walk.”
- By financially supporting the church.

*“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.” (Malachi 3:10)*

Additional Scriptures: Hebrews 10:25; Philippians 1:27; 1 Corinthians 16:2

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH & SERVICE.** As we covered in the first week’s session, we are intentional in our efforts to make disciples. We want to provide every opportunity for you to begin your journey of discipleship in order to become more and more like Jesus. Some of those opportunities are as follows:

- **Discipleship Groups.** Small groups of up to 12 people who gather in homes throughout The Villages and connect more intimately with others, study the Bible, and serve together on various projects,
- **Sunday morning Adult Bible studies.** Regardless of which service you attend on Sunday morning, there is an Adult Bible study anyone can attend held concurrent with both services,
- **Wednesday evening Bible Studies.** From September to May we have Bible study at 6 p.m. each Wednesday evening.
- **Men’s & Women’s Weekly Bible Studies.** These are listed in the weekly worship bulletins and on our web site,
- **Ministry & Outreach Opportunities.** Please see the brochures and literature in track racks in our North and South hallways, or go to our web site and look under the “ministries” tag for information,
- **Mission Trips.** Several mission trips to our supported mission organizations are planned each year for those who would love to experience a life-changing short-term mission trip.

## • FORWARD INITIATIVE

The FORWARD Initiative is a God-sized, Christ-centered vision for Fairway Christian Church launched in February of 2023 that seeks to expand our Kingdom impact in The Villages and beyond through improvements to our present campus and by

planting a new church. We are excited as we move **FORWARD** to fulfill our mission to **GO** into our community, **SOW** the gospel, and **GROW** disciples who will change the world! The success of the FORWARD initiative depends on God’s gracious provisions through the faithful and generous response of everyone.

If you go to our web site at [www.fairwaycc.org](http://www.fairwaycc.org) and scroll down the main page to the FORWARD section and click on the “More Information” tab, you will be able to see more detailed information and how you can get involved in helping us reach more people and make more disciples.

## • YOUR NEXT STEP

When you decide to become a member of Fairway Christian Church, we want to challenge you to take the next step in your discipleship journey. That’s why we want to invite you to follow up this *FIRST STEP* seminar with our 7-week small group experience called *MAPPING THE JOURNEY*. This experience has been designed to guide you through an exploration of what it means to make Jesus your life-long mentor and Lord. The group will meet in a local host home with a facilitator leading the discussion each week.

By the time you finish *MAPPING THE JOURNEY* you will have made new friends, discovered why being a Christian means so much more than “just showing up once-a-week”, and you will be ready to strategically engage in the greatest, most important purpose in the world – fulfilling Jesus’ mandate for the church to go into all the world and make disciples! Will you join us?

## • NOTES

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