

First Baptist Church of District Heights

THE
HEIGHTS
C H U R C H



**FIRST
STEPS**

Student Guide



Welcome to First Baptist Church of District Heights.

*We are a church that is committed to **Connecting with Communities to Cultivate STRONG Christians**. This means that we exist to help you grow as a STRONG Christian and welcome you to take this journey along with us!*

We have designed these 3 sessions as a foundational point in your journey as a Christ follower. These sessions will cover the basics about Christianity, your Christian walk and our church. Upon completion, you will have covered some basic principles that will help you grow in your relationship with Jesus as well as lay the foundation to becoming an active member in our church.

As you complete this First Steps orientation, we look forward to welcoming you as a full member of The Heights! From here, we encourage you to take the “Next Steps” toward growth in your Journey with Jesus and this church.

Welcome!

Dr. Bobby Manning
Senior Pastor

First Baptist Church of District Heights

SESSION 1: ESSENTIALS

What We Believe

1. About God

- There is one true God. He eternally exists in three persons.
- Jesus Christ is God who came to earth as fully God and fully human. He was _____ of a virgin, _____ a sinless life, _____ on the cross and _____ from the grave. His sacrifice on the cross is the only way for our sin to be forgiven and for us to have a relationship with God. (John 1:1-5; 12-14)
- The Holy Spirit is God who lives within the Christian upon belief in Christ. He _____ the Christian to live a godly life and _____ in times of sorrow. (Ephesians 1:13-14; John 14:16-17)

2. About Us

- As humans, we have all _____. Our sin has _____ us from God and results in spiritual _____. (Romans 3:23; 6:23)
- Jesus provided for our sin to be _____ and _____ by his death on the cross, burial and resurrection. (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
- Each of us must individually _____ our sin and place our _____ in Christ to receive the gift of salvation. (Romans 10:9-10; 1 John 1:9)

3. About the Future

- When we die (or when Jesus returns) we will all be _____ for our sin. (Hebrews 9:27-28)
- Those who have trusted Christ have been _____ of their sin, and will spend eternity with God. (Hebrews 9:27-28; Matthew 25:31-36)
- Those who have not trusted Christ will pay the _____ for their sin and will spend eternity _____ from God. (Matthew 25:41-46; Revelation 20:13-15)

4. About the Bible

- The Holy Bible is _____ by God and perfectly captures His instruction to us. (2 Timothy 3:15-17)

Have you TRUSTED Jesus as your Savior and started FOLLOWING Him?

SESSION 2: STRONG CHRISTIAN

1. Jesus' Call to Discipleship (Matthew 4:19)

- A. KNOW: To place your full _____ in Jesus as your Lord.
- B. GROW: To fully engage in the process of _____ more like Jesus.
- C. SHOW: To commit to actively helping _____ to follow Jesus more fully.

2. What is a STRONG Christian?

A. SHARING LIFE

- Why is connection so important?
 - I need _____ in order to grow spiritually. (Hebrews 10:24; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)
 - Connection invites God's _____ and _____. (Matthew 18:19)
- How do I stay connected?
 - Corporate Worship
 - Discipleship/Next Steps (Acts 5:42)
 - Prayer/Accountability Partner
 - Serving in Ministry

B. TEACHING

- _____ and _____ sound Biblical teaching (John 8:31-32)
- Ways to receive God's word
 - Grow through _____. (Life Groups; Next Steps)
 - _____ your Bible every day. (Acts 17:11)
 - _____ Scripture. (Proverbs 7:2-3; Psalm 119:11)

C. REACHING

- Reaching out to share the gospel with others who may not know Christ.
- _____ friends, relatives, acquaintances, neighbors and co-workers who are disconnected and _____ for opportunities to lead them to Jesus.
- _____ telling your story. (1 Peter 3:15)
- _____ key Bible verses.
- Display the _____ of Christ. (James 2:15)

D. OVERCOMING

- We must overcome _____ and _____ by receiving Christ's forgiveness and walking in His Word. (1 John 2:1-3; Psalm 119:9)
- We must develop a regular regimen of spiritual _____ that keep us STRONG, including prayer, Bible reading, and meditation. (Psalm 1:1-2)
- We must seek help to overcome the _____ that keep us from mental and emotional health. (Psalm 88:1-3)

E. NETWORKING

- Using your _____ and _____ to benefit the body of Christ.
- If something _____ you or _____ you, that's probably an area where our church _____ you!
- Every Christian has at least one _____. (1 Corinthians 7:7)
- We must _____ the gifts God has given. It is _____ to waste them. (1 Timothy 4:14; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2)

F. GLORIFYING

- We worship God by living a _____ (Romans 12:1-2)
- We worship God _____ in corporate worship.
 - A lifestyle of worship _____ into corporate worship gatherings (Psalm 34:1-2)
- We worship God through wise _____ of our time, talents and treasures.
 - Proper management of our time will open our _____ to God.
 - As we manage our finances well, we must honor God with _____ and _____. (Malachi 3:8-10)

Session 3 – A STRONG Church

1. Why Church?

- The Bible describes the local church as the _____ of Christ.
(1 Corinthians 12:12-14; 27)
- God established the local church for Christians to live within Biblical community for Biblical _____, growth in Godliness, and _____.
(Acts 2:42-47)
- We believe that every Christian should be _____ to and _____ to a local body of believers. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

2. STRONG Mission

“Connecting with Communities to Cultivate STRONG Christians”

3. STRONG Members

- What is Your KNOW Plan?
 - To sign up to be _____.
 - To _____ attend worship services.
- What is Your GROW Plan?
 - To continue the growth process by connecting with a _____ group.
 - To live in active Biblical _____, remaining _____ to at least one other Christian.
 - To begin _____ supporting the church through tithes and offerings.
- What is Your SHOW Plan?
 - To be _____ to serve in least one ministry of the church.
 - Identify _____ in your circle who are far from Jesus, and begin _____ them toward Him. (FRANC)

True or False?

- _____ 1. I don't have anything to offer.
- _____ 2. This church seems to have everything covered.
- _____ 3. I'm not ready to get involved yet.
- _____ 4. I don't have time to connect with a ministry.
- _____ 5. I need to get myself together first!

***Your journey is INCOMPLETE.
Sign up TODAY for NEXT STEPS!***

7-Day Devotional

Weekly Memory Verses:

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

~Romans 6:23

For if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ~Romans 10:9

Day 1:

Read John 14:1-6; 15-17

- What did Jesus say to do so that your hearts would not be troubled? (verse 1)

- Where did Jesus say that He was going and why? (verse 2)

- What did Jesus promise that He will do in the future? (verse 3)

- What does Jesus' statement in verse 6 mean for those who try to get to God without trusting Jesus? (verse 6)

- Who has Jesus promised to leave with His followers to be our helper in His absence? (verse 16-17)

Thank you for giving me access to You through the sacrifice of Your son, Jesus. Thank you for giving me the Holy Spirit as my comforter. Help me today to believe in You when my heart is troubled, and to look forward to Your return. Amen

Prayer Requests: _____

Day 2:

Read Romans 5:6-11

- What two reasons are given for why Jesus' death was necessary? (verse 6)

- How exactly did God demonstrate his love for us? (verse 8)

- Did Jesus wait for us to "deserve" his love before he died for us? (verse 8)

- Name one thing we have been saved from by the sacrifice of Jesus. (verse 9)

- Name one thing we have received because of the sacrifice of Jesus. (verse 11)

Lord, thank You for saving me when I was in sin and long before I realized I needed You. I am grateful to you for loving me so much that You allowed Jesus Christ to die for me. Please give me the strength to recognize all ungodliness in me so that my life may be pleasing You. Amen.

Prayer Requests: _____

Day 3:

Read Hebrews 10:23-25

- Despite the attempts of the world to knock us off track, how does this passage instruct us to hold on to the confession of our hope? (verse 23)

- Why can we now hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering? (verse 23)

- How does this passage instruct us to consider other believers? What does this mean to you? (verse 24)

- Now that we have trusted Christ, can we live this Christian life alone? (verse 25)

- What do you think it means to “forsake the assembling of ourselves together? (verse 25)

Lord, thank you that we can now enter Your holy presence because of the sacrifice of Jesus, our new High Priest. Lord, I pray for the Holy Spirit to keep me unwavering in my faith. Lord, please strengthen my relationships with Christian brothers and sisters so that we may stir up love and good deeds. Amen.

Prayer Requests: _____

Day 4:

Read Psalm 119:9-16

- What is a primary strategy that this Scripture tells us that we can use to keep our way pure? (verse 9)

- What do you think it means to seek the Lord “with my whole heart?” What are some distractions that might keep you from doing so? (verse 10)

- This passage teaches us the importance of memorizing Scripture. What benefit does the passage give for “hiding His Word in our heart?” (verse 11)

- How can we make God’s Word as exciting to us as material riches? (verse 14)

- What should our attitude be towards Scripture? (verse 16)

Lord, I thank you for the access to You given to me through your Word. As I memorize and meditate on your Word, make me strong against my sinfulness. Help me to treasure your Word more than I treasure anything here on earth. Amen.

Prayer Requests: _____

Day 5:

Read Ephesians 2:1-10

- What was our spiritual status before coming to know Christ? (verse 1)

- Despite our trespasses and sins, God shared his riches with us. What does this passage teach us these riches are? (verse 4, verse 7)

- How is it that we are saved? Can we earn our salvation with God by our good works? (verse 8)

- This Scripture teaches us that God considers you his “workmanship.” What does this mean to you? (verse 10)

Lord I thank you for your grace, your mercy, and sacrificing your son Christ Jesus so that we may become alive. Reveal to me the purpose you have prepared for me so that I may live out that purpose. I pray that others may see your workmanship in me and want to then begin live a life a life with you. Amen.

Prayer Requests: _____

Day 6:

Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

- Why is it better to live our Christian lives in fellowship with other believers?
(verse 9)

- In the likely event that we fall spiritually, what is the benefit of being connected with other believers? (verse 10)

- What is the downside of being disconnected from a local community of faith?
(verse 10)

- If we are isolated spiritually, are we more or less likely to be overpowered by Satan?
(verse 8)

- How can we ensure that we can withstand the attack of Satan? (verse 8)

Lord, thank you for not leaving me alone in this world. I pray that you will help me to build meaningful relationships with Christians through my church as we worship, grow and serve together. Amen.

Prayer Requests: _____

Day 7:

Read Romans 12:1-2

- What do you think it means to be a “living sacrifice?” (verse 1)

- This passage teaches us that presenting ourselves to God is our “reasonable service.”
What do you think this means?

- What does this Scripture tell us is the big step toward being transformed? (verse 2)

- This Scripture teaches us that our godly lifestyle will prove what? (verse 2)

Lord, thank you for giving Jesus as a sacrifice for my sin. I commit today to return my devotion by presenting myself as a living sacrifice back to You. Help me to renew my mind every day so that I may live a life that is transformed. Amen.

Prayer Requests: _____

