

CORE

C L A S S E S

101:BASICS

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WELCOME TO 101: BASICS

So, you've received salvation -- salvation means accepting Jesus as your personal Lord and savior. Now what? We are going to outline some of the fundamentals of getting to know Jesus and beginning your spiritual journey. We'll also be highlighting four of our seven core values.

CORE VALUE #1

Jesus is our message.

Our purpose at LS Church is to share the unfailing love and truth of Jesus. Methods come and go as we grow and evolve. However, the message stays the same. We place Jesus at our core and use him as our example.

■ GET BAPTIZED

Baptism - (n.) An outward expression of an inward decision :)

Water baptism is the next step you should take after you've accepted Jesus as your personal savior. Why do we get baptized? We get baptized because Jesus was baptized, and we want to be just like Jesus. It's a statement of faith. By getting baptized you are acknowledging that your old life is behind you. You are a new person with a new life. It is also a sign of repentance -- repentance means change -- a change so drastic that the old person is buried.

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation**; old things have passed away; behold, **all things have become new.**" 2 Corinthians 5:17*

We have water baptism periodically throughout the year. Visit the "Start Here" station in the lobby to sign up.

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CORE VALUE #2

Relationship is everything.

Our foundation is rooted in a true revelation of Jesus. Relationship is everything to gaining this revelation. Our relationship with Jesus is what restores and inspires us to follow him. We are Jesus people, not religious people. How can you get to know Jesus? The first two things you can do is to read your Bible and to pray. Basically, just hang out with God!

▪ READ YOUR BIBLE

Bible - (n.) God's holy words written down by men

First and foremost, the Bible is essential for knowing God and His will for our lives. It is God's very words to us. It is as relevant for us today as it was when it was written. How cool is that?! Here's what we believe about God's word:

We believe wholeheartedly in the Bible's authority.

"We also thank God continually because, when you received the Word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it, not as the word of men, but actually as it is, the Word of God, which is at work in you who believe." 1 Thessalonians 2:13

We believe in the closed canon of scripture meaning there are not, nor will there ever be, any other books, verses or ideas added to the Bible or placed beside it as equal in authority.

We strive to read our Bible DAILY. Set out a time each day to read your bible. This can begin as a few minutes in the morning. The goal is to start somewhere. As your relationship with God grows, you will incorporate Him more and more in your everyday life. Make sure you get a Bible that's clear to you. There are many translations. Chose one that you can easily read.

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We receive God's Word with an open heart. Consciously, expect to hear God speak to your life situation when you prepare to read your bible. Try to apply the Bible's principals to your daily life.

■ PRAY

Pray - (v.) Talking to and/or hanging out with God

Reading your Bible and praying go hand-in-hand. It is an extremely important part of your relationship with God. Even Jesus had a personal relationship with God through prayer. Talking to God through prayer is essential to be a healthy Christian.

There are so many ways we can talk to God and spend time with Him. How can we begin a daily prayer time? Select a specific time and place. Follow a simple plan. Here's an example of how to spend 10 minutes with God while incorporating your Bible:

1. Read a verse.
2. Reflect on the verse.
3. Record what God desires of you.
4. Request from God.

CORE VALUE #3

Connecting is our responsibility.

Whether we're connecting to Jesus or helping others connect to Jesus, connecting is our responsibility. We know this is extremely valuable to grow God's kingdom. We also know that connecting happens on different levels and across different platforms. The two avenues that we will highlight for new Christians are to attend church services and to join a LS Group or an LS Team.

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▪ ATTEND CHURCH & WORSHIP

Worship - (v.) The act of telling God He's awesome; (n.) A service held in which God has the seat of honor

It is important to get together with other believers regularly. Church isn't just a building or a podcast. It's a community. It's worshiping with others, praying for others, hurting with others, serving others, and being involved in the lives of others. There is power in the Biblical call to gather with other believers.

We also encourage everyone to become a member of LS Church. What does it mean to be a member? It's simple. Get involved! The difference between an "attender" and a "member" can be summed up in one word: commitment.

IT'S IMPORTANT TO BE COMMITTED. It produces spiritual growth. The New Testament places an emphasis on the need for Christians to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth. You cannot be accountable when you're not committed to any specific church family. In a nutshell, membership is on you, not on us!

"We also thank God continually because, when you received the Word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it, not as the word of men, but actually as it is, the Word of God, which is at work in you who believe." 1 Thessalonians 2:13

▪ JOIN A LS GROUP

LS Group - (n.) A group of friends living life together and talking about Jesus

We believe our church must grow LARGER and SMALLER at the same time. LS Groups allow our church to grow in members while fostering an environment for close friendships to form. What does that mean exactly? LS Groups are just groups of people living life together. Our LS Groups meet year-round and range from basketball and women's groups to young families and softball groups.

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CORE VALUE #4

Generosity is our privilege.

We believe in creating a culture of giving back what God has so richly given us. It's our honor to give back to Him. Simply put, generosity is our privilege. We believe we should generously give of our time, talents and treasure.

■ GIVE OUR TIME

Giving our time is a way to serve other people. Jesus himself came to serve people not to be served. Join a volunteer team. Help during church events. Every role is different, but every role is important.

■ GIVE OUR TALENTS

When we use our talent to benefit the kingdom of God this talent becomes a gift. He is the one that blessed you with the talent so make it useful and give back to others.

■ GIVE OUR TREASURE

Tithe - (n.) Giving God back 10% of what He gives us.

Offering - (n.) Giving over and above our tithe.

We can give of our "treasure" or money in the form of tithes and offerings. Tithing, or giving ten percent of your income, isn't merely giving something to God. It's giving back what was his to begin with. It teaches us to always put God first in our lives. By giving God our first, we are putting our faith in Him as our provider.

Thank you going through our 101 curriculum! We want to invite you to take 201:Beliefs to find out about our beliefs and what makes us tick. We'll share our vision as well as dive into the past, present and future of LS Church. And, remember **GOD HAS MORE!**