

MT. CARMEL CHURCH

A Church Making Disciples for Christ

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New Members Orientation Class

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Congratulations

You have made the most important commitment a person can make in life. As a result of receiving Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you have experienced what the Bible calls a new birth. In your physical life, you entered the world as a baby and then grew to maturity. The same is true in your spiritual experience. Now that you have experienced a spiritual birth, you need to grow into a mature follower of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 4:13).

Just as an infant needs help to grow physically, a new believer needs help to grow spiritually. It is our desire to assist you in growing spiritually.

This class will help you get started in your spiritual growth. Ask God to give you strength to continue and complete the study. You might want to pray a prayer like the one below.

“Dear God, I know I am going to need Your help in working through this booklet and understanding what You are trying to teach me. I want to grow spiritually. Help me be faithful in completing this class. In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen”

Lesson 1

Salvation



All Christians must know these basic facts about:

Salvation

"Salvation is the transformation of a person's individual nature and relationship with God as a result of repentance and faith in the atoning death of Jesus Christ on the cross. All humanity stands in need of salvation which is only possible through faith in Christ Jesus. Believers are saved by grace through faith for good works." (Ephesians 2:8-10)

Because of Adam's fall," (Genesis 2:15 – 17, 3:1- 11) all humans required a plan of salvation. God's word assures all who accept Christ as Lord and Savior that salvation belongs to them (I John 5:10-13). And because of Christ they are saved (John 6:37).

Humans are unable to save themselves. God has provided a means of salvation to the world and all credit goes to God (Ephesians 2:8-9).

God provides the following through Salvation:

Access to God: (Romans 5:1-2, Ephesians 2:13). Before Jesus suffered and died in our place for our sins individuals only had access to God through the High Priest. But because Christ is salvation for believers, we all have access to God through Jesus Christ. There is no need to go through another human being to have access to God.

Adoption into God's family: (John 1:12, Romans 8:22-24, Galatians 4:4-7). Salvation is the vehicle God uses to adopt and accept believers as His children. Salvation also enables believers to see God as their Father.

Forgiveness of sin: (Psalm 31:1-2, Matthew 26:28, Acts 5:30-31). All human beings commit sin. An offering to God must be rendered by the sinner to receive forgiveness. Jesus Christ is *The Offering* to God for all believers. Salvation blots out the sinful deeds of believers and saves us from sin which, if not forgiven, leads to eternal damnation.

Peace with God: (Ephesians 2:13-17, Isaiah 53:3, John 16:33). Salvation removes the hostility that exists between humans and God. That hostility is replaced with peace. Without salvation there will always be turmoil between humans and God.

A New Life: (II Corinthians 5:17, Romans 6:4, Galatians 6:14). Without salvation humans remain in the Adamic state; the nature of Adam. That state of nature leads humans to satisfy their flesh while neglecting their souls. Salvation begins with a spiritual rebirth that leads believers to live spiritual instead of in carnality.

Deliverance from the power of sin: (Romans 6:14, 7:21-25, 8:2-5). Sin does not have a hold on believers because God has provided us with salvation. Without salvations humans are slaves to sin. Once salvation is received the believer is no longer a prisoner of sin.

The Conversion Experience

In order to be saved or receive salvation, a conversion, or turn, must take place. In order for that conversion to take place a person must trust God just as a child has trust in its parents (Matthew 18:3). Humans must turn away from sin and towards God (1 Thessalonians 1:8-9). There are three steps in this process. While they are listed here in sequence they may also occur simultaneously.

Conviction is the state humans entered into when they find themselves when they acknowledge their sinful condition. /It is a remorseful condition (Acts 2:36-37). Once this condition is acknowledged the person then confess their sin (Acts 19:18).

Repentance is the second step in the conversion process (Mark 1:15, Luke 5:32). Repentance is an essential part of the salvation experience. At this point a person acknowledges his or her sinful state; they also realize that turning to God is the only way out of their sinful state. When a person repents it causes Heaven to rejoice (Luke 15:7). Jesus instructed His disciples to preach repentance (Luke 24:47).

Faith is the final step in the conversion experience. Faith, simply put, is trust in God for and in all things (Hebrews 11:1). A person must trust that Jesus can save him or her (John 3:26). A person must also trust that God can and will supply his or her needs (Philippians 4:19). The only way to please God is to trust Him (Hebrews 11:6).

All believers Must Be Born Again

Jesus clearly states that the only way a person can see the Kingdom of God is to be born again (John 3:3). This rebirth is spiritual and must take place in order to be reborn. Following is a list of scriptures regarding rebirth and why it's needed.

The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23).

That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved. (Romans 10:9).

Rebirth involves **one**, publicly confessing Jesus Christ as Lord and, **two**, belief in God and His ability to save in your heart.

But that the kindness and love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saves us, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost (Titus 3:4-5).

Human works cannot save them, God alone possesses that power.

For whoever calls upon the name of the Lord, will be saved (Romans 10:13).

God promised to save everyone who called upon Him.

If you have not allowed Jesus Christ to be your personal Savior pray earnestly and honestly the following prayer:

Dear God

I know that I have sinned by breaking Your laws and I ask forgiveness. I believe that Jesus died for my sins. I want to be born again and receive new life in Him. I will follow Jesus as my Lord and obey Him in all that I do.

***In Jesus' Name,
Amen***

Review of Salvation

1. Believers can go to heaven without being saved. True or False
2. Humans have the ability to save themselves. True or False
3. Because of salvation believers are forgiven of their sins. True or False
4. Because of salvation believers have peace with God. True or False
5. God saves all who call upon Him. True or False
6. What are the three steps in the conversion experience?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
7. What is the change in the life of a believer? (II Corinthians 5:17, Romans 6:4)

8. The wages of sin is (Romans 6:23)

9. Salvation delivers believers from the _____ (Romans 6:14).
10. Repentance is the _____ step in the conversion experience.

All believers should now the basic facts about:

The Church

God calls believers into fellowship with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Believers are instructed to assemble together to provide encouragement for one another (Hebrews 10:25). Jesus instructs His disciples on the primary mission of the church in what is known as the Great Commission. He states:

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the son of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:19-20).

The church’s responsibility is to spread the good news of the gospel throughout the world. To that end members of the church have the honor and privilege of serving God and their fellow man. Some of the basic responsibilities of church members (Christians) are as follows:

Love the church. (John 13:34-35, Ephesians 5:25) Just as Christ loves believers, the church, believers are to love each other (the church). There must be love among and between members of the church. We, as the church, should give our time, talents, and resources to the church.

Worship the Lord. (Psalm 95:6, 100, 150) God desires the worship and praise of His people. The church is the meeting place where believers assemble to offer praise and worship to God as one body. Worship and praise of God is both public and private (Matthew 6:6, Luke 4:16). The church building is the physical location where believers can offer uninterrupted worship and praise to God.

Serve the Lord. (Luke 22:21, John 9:4, I Corinthians 10:31, 15:58) God calls all believers into service. God has given each believer a gift that is to be used to bring Him glory and serve the church.

Serve the Lost. (Matthew 25:31-46, Matthew 28:19-20) The church is called to minister to the lost and distressed by offering them Christ. We are instructed to “Go” to the lost in a spirit of service with the goal of calling them out of darkness into a soul saving relationship with God.

Keep God’s commandments. (John 14:21, John 15:10, 14) By adhering to God’s commandments believers show their love for God. While no one is sinless all believers should be consistent in their efforts to remain obedient to the Word of God.

Support the ministry. (Proverbs 3:9, Malachi 3:12, Luke 6:38) Believers provide the necessary financial assistance to sustain church operations. We must give

financially as God has prospered us. By properly giving to the church we give to ourselves. How? When believers give to God, He blesses them in return.

Review of the Church:

- | | | | |
|--|------|----|-------|
| 1. Believers are not required to serve God. | True | or | False |
| 2. Jesus loved the church. | True | or | False |
| 3. God does not desire the worship of believers | True | or | False |
| 4. Believers should support the ministry. | True | or | False |
| 5. Believers don't have to share the gospel with the lost. | True | or | False |
| 6. Believers don't have to keep God's commandments. | True | or | False |
| 7. Believers serve God and man. | True | or | False |

Ordinances of the Church

Ordinance – An authoritative decree or law.

Jesus commands the Christian Church to observe two ordinances which are **Baptism** and **The Lord's Supper**. There are some basic facts all Christians must know regarding each of these ordinances:

Baptism

Baptism is a symbol of the believer's identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection (Romans 6:3, Colossians 2:12). Baptism means to be entirely immersed or submerged in water (Mark 1:5, John 3:33).

Christians must know that Baptism:

Was commanded by Christ (Matthew 28:19) Jesus tells believers that they must be baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Does not save: (Mark 16:16) It is not baptism but belief in Christ that saves individuals. Baptism is the outward expression of a believer's willingness to follow Christ.

Water is used to perform baptism. (Acts 10:47-48, I Peter 3:21) Water is a cleansing agent and is used, symbolically, as an example of washing away sin.

Christians must also be baptized into Christ.

Baptism into Christ signifies that believers have been buried and raised in Christ (Romans 6:3-7).

Believers are baptized by one Spirit into one body. That is the body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:13).

There are two types of Baptism:

- Spirit
- Water

Spirit Baptism:

Baptism of the Spirit is the act of the Holy Spirit when He makes us apart of the body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:13). Every believer experiences this baptism. It takes place the very moment we believe and receive Jesus Christ as Savior (Ephesians 4:5, Colossians 2:12, I Peter 3:21, Mark 1: 4-8).

Water Baptism:

By being submerged in water believers symbolically are baptized into the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. Believers are cut off from the Adamic life because of Baptism into the death of Christ (Romans 6:3-7).

Humans are only baptized after they accept and believe that Jesus is the Son of God (Acts 8: 37, 39).

Believers must know these basic facts about:

The Lord's Supper

The Supper took place before the death of Christ. Jesus and His disciples went into a closed room where He washed their feet and shared bread and wine. The bread and wine symbolized the body and blood of Jesus. As believers partake of the Lord's Supper, they must remember Christ, receive strength from Him and rededicate themselves to Him and His cause (I Corinthians 11:23-34).

The Lord's Supper is an established ordinance. (Matthew 26:26-29, Mark 14:22-25, I Corinthians 11:23-26) Jesus established the Lord's Supper and expects all believers to continue to participate in it until He returns.

The Lord's Supper is a memorial of the death of our Lord and Savior (Mark 14:22).

The Lord's Supper Is Called:

- Communion (I Corinthians 10:16).
- The Breaking of Bread (Acts 2:42, 46, 20:7).
- The Cup of Blessing (I Corinthians 10:16).
- The Last Supper

The Lord's Table (I Corinthians 10:21)

Elements used in the Lord's Supper and their significance:

- The **Table** is the place of love, fellowship and sharing in communion. It is the family table – a love feast – a meal (Leviticus 24:5-9, Psalm 23:5).
- The **Bread** (Isaiah 53:5) represents His broken body (Matthew 26:26). It is the type of Lamb that was slain.
- The **Wine** is a symbol of the Blood of Christ that was shed for our sins. We, as believers, drink in remembrance of the Lord. During the Lord's Supper, we ask for forgiveness of all sins. It represents the New Covenant (Matthew 26:27-28).

The believer should do the following in preparation of taking the Lord's Supper:

Come: in remembrance of Christ's death on the cross for me (I Corinthians 11:23-26).

Come: to the table with a desire to participate (Luke 22:14-15).

Come: in faith (Hebrews 11:6).

Come: in remembrance of what Christ did for you (Luke 23:46, 24:1-12). The Israelites remember sins. His church remembers Him.

Come: with thanksgiving (Luke 22:17).

Come: examining their hearts (I Corinthians 11:28) to make sure that we are in right standing with God, and our brothers and sisters (I Corinthians 11:27, Psalm 24:3-5).

Come: with a repentant and thankful heart (1 Corinthians 10:21).

Come: In a spirit of fellowship and love (I Corinthians 10:16-17).

Come: In holy fear (I Corinthians 11:27-32).

With a threefold look at Christ:

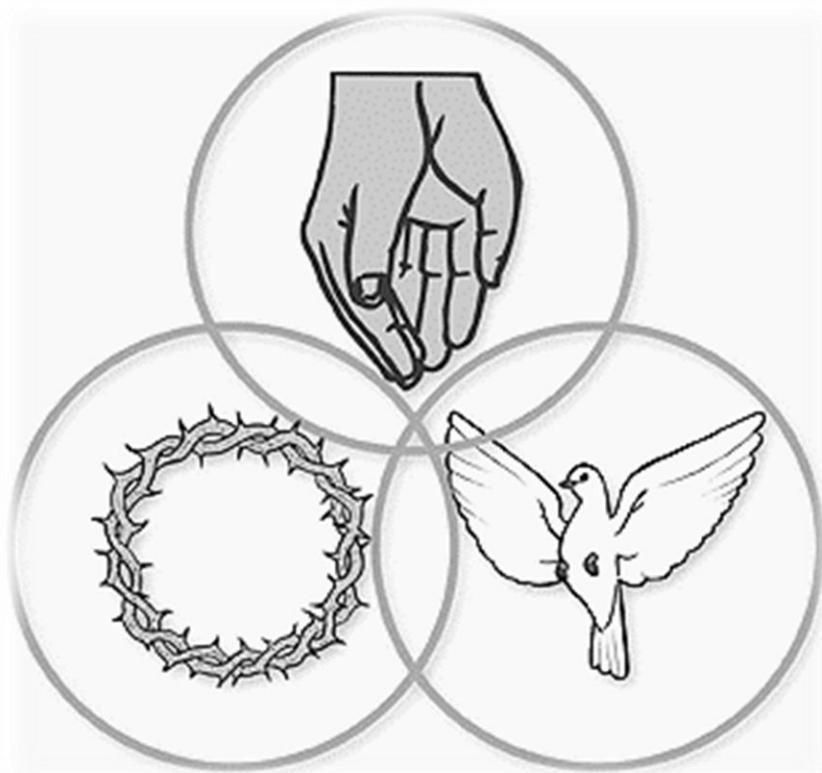
- A **Backward look** to Calvary – Jesus' suffering and death for us.
- An **Upward look** to Heaven – Jesus' resurrection, ascension and current state seated at the right hand of God.
- A **Forward look** to – Jesus' return.

Review of Church Ordinances:

1. How many ordinances does the church have? _____.
2. What are those ordinances? _____.
3. Bread and wine represent _____ and _____ of Jesus Christ.
4. List three names used to describe the Lord's Supper _____,
_____, _____.
5. Believers partake of the Lord's Supper and give (Luke 22:17)
_____.
6. The table is a place of _____, _____ and _____.
7. What are the two types of baptism _____ and _____?
8. Baptism saves sinners (Mark 16:16) True or False
9. Jesus commanded believers to baptize. True or False
10. What is used to baptize? (Acts 10:47-48) _____.

Lesson 2

The Holy Trinity



Facts for Christians

The God we serve exist in three (3) persons (Genesis 1:26, 11:7, Isaiah 44:16 Luke 1:35).

1. God the Father
2. God the Son
3. God the Holy Spirit

These three as one make up the Holy Trinity. All Christians must know these basic facts regarding each of them.

All Christians must know these basic facts about:

God the Father

God is the Creator of all things. (Genesis 1-2; 1-3) In six days God created the heaven and the earth. He created all living creatures and provided all that every creature would need to survive.

All Christians must believe that God is real. (Hebrews 11:6) God is not the result of a vivid imagination. He is real and without faith in Him we are nothing. It is God who sustains us in all things at all times.

God is a spiritual being. (Numbers 23:19 John 4:24) God is not a human being. He is a spirit. If we want true communication with Him it must be spiritual. Humans too are spiritual beings. The flesh is only used to house our spirits for existence here on earth. Acceptance of this fact allows believers to both hear from and speak to God.

Jehovah is the Only God. (Isaiah 44:6, I Corinthians 8:4-6, I Timothy 2:5) The God we serve, Jehovah, is the Only True and Living God. There is no other God. End of story. Some serve and worship the earth, sun and moon. We worship the God that created the man who made the object.

God hates sin. (Isaiah 59:2, Romans 6:23) God hates sin because of its end result on us humans. That end result is destruction and death. But because of God's love for us He has provided a way of deliverance from sin. His name is Jesus.

God loves humans. (John 3:16) While God does indeed hate sin, He loves humans who commit sin. He loves us so that He sent His only son, Jesus to suffer and die

for our sins. His sacrificial act grants those who accept Him as Lord and Savior eternal life.

God is omniscient. (Psalm 139:12, Isaiah 40:13-14, Luke 12:7, John 2:24-25) Nothing is hidden from God. He possesses infinite knowledge awareness and wisdom. He knows the inner most thoughts of humans. God is able to search our hearts and minds and knows the number of hairs on our heads.

God is omnipresent. (1 Kings 8:27, Jeremiah 23:24, Hebrews 13:5) God is everywhere at all times. There are no hiding places from God. There is no place where anyone can escape the presence of God.

God is omnipotent. (Job 9:19, Isaiah 40:28, Hebrews 1:3, Revelation 19:6) God possess all power and authority. No one or nothing is as powerful as God. He is the Almighty.

Review of God the Father:

1. What does God hate? (Isaiah 59:2, Amos 5:21-23)
2. God is everywhere at all times (I Kings 8:27, Jeremiah 23:24, Psalm 139:7-10). This is called _____.
3. God exist in three persons. Who are they? _____, _____, _____.
4. What did God create? (Genesis1-2;1-3) _____.
5. God has all power. What is this called: (Job 9:19, Hebrews 1:3, Revelations 19:6) _____.
6. How did God display His love for the world? (John3:16) _____.
7. What is God? (Numbers 23:19, John 4:24). _____.
8. All Christians must believe that God is _____ (Hebrews 11:6)

All Christians must know these basic facts regarding the Son of God:

God the Son

Jesus was there in the beginning. (Genesis 1:26, Isaiah 48:16, John 1:1-5) Jesus has always existed. Jesus was present with God before the beginning. He worked with God to create everything that was created.

Jesus was foretold of in the Old Testament Scripture. (Isaiah 7:10-15, Micah 5:2-5) God, in His infinite wisdom, knew that His people needed a savior. Sin held His people captives and He had to provide a way of escape from sin and a bridge to Him. The foretelling of the coming Messiah provided hope and encouragement for His people.

Jesus was sent by God (John 3:16) God, because of His love for human beings, sent His Son to serve as the ultimate sacrifice to cleanse our sins. God sent His very best to suffer and die in our place so all who believe in Jesus and accept Him as Lord and Savior will receive eternal life.

Jesus was born of a woman (Luke 2:1-7) Jesus entered this earth, in His human form, as every person has since Eve gave birth to Cain. He was born of a woman. Mary gave birth to Jesus in a barn and used an animal feeding trough as His bed.

Jesus was an example for all Christians (Luke 2:49-52, Matthew 3:13-17, 4:1-11, Mark 6:30-43, Luke 23:34, John 19:26-27) Jesus was obedient to His parents, baptized, resisted temptation from Satan, had compassion for others, made provisions for them. Loved His enemies and cared for His family. These are just a few areas where we find Jesus setting the example. A search of Scripture will reveal Jesus setting the example or teaching the proper manner in which Christians are to live.

Jesus died (Matthew 27:45-56, Luke 23:44-49, John 19:28-30) Jesus died. He did not faint. He died. He did not lapse into a coma. He died. There is no refuting this fact. Everyone, on the day of His death, both enemies and loved ones all agreed that Jesus died.

Jesus was buried (Matthew 27:57-60, Mark 15:42-47, Luke 23:50-56, John 19:38-42) After Jesus died His body was claimed by Joseph of Arimathea and placed in a tomb that Joseph had purchased for himself. A stone was placed across the opening of the tomb and Pilate sent soldiers to guard the tomb.

Jesus was resurrected. (Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-2, John 20:1-10) Neither death nor the grave had the power to hold Jesus captive. He overcame them both for our sake.

Jesus returned to earth after His death on the cross. (Mark 16:9-18, John 20:11-31, John 21) Jesus returned to earth after His death on the cross to continue in His ministry. He consoled, encouraged and instructed His disciples on their responsibilities to God and mankind.

Jesus ascended to Heaven. (Mark 16:19, Acts 1:4-11) Jesus returned to His Father and now having saved us intercedes on our behalf to God.

Review of God the Son:

- | | | | |
|---|------|----|-------|
| 1. Jesus did not die. | True | or | False |
| 2. Jesus never left heaven. | True | or | False |
| 3. Jesus died for the sins of the world | True | or | False |
| 4. Jesus is the Son of God. | True | or | False |
| 5. Jesus was baptized. | True | or | False |
| 6. Jesus is now in heaven | True | or | False |
| 9. Jesus did not resist temptation. | True | or | False |
| 10. Jesus was resurrected. | True | or | False |

All Christians must know these basic facts about:

God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit was there in the beginning. (Genesis 1:26, 11:7, Isaiah 48:16) The Holy Spirit was present with God the Father and Jesus the Son before the beginning.

The Holy Spirit is personal and not impersonal. (John 16:17, 15:26, 16:7-8) The Spirit is revealed as Him and not it. The Holy Spirit is the direct agent between heaven and earth in this gospel age.

The Holy Spirit regenerates. (II Corinthians 3:6, Romans 8:11) The Holy Spirit converts or reforms us, believers, completely.

The Holy Spirit teaches (John 14:26, 16:12-14) When we study the word of God, we must ask for the aid of the Holy Spirit. He was sent to teach us the information that God desires to make us knowledgeable.

The Holy Spirit guides. (Romans 8:14, Galatians 5:16-18) In order to live successful Christian lives, all Christians must rely on the guidance of the Holy Spirit. He leads all believers in truth. He will never lead us in the wrong direction or in ways that are contrary to God.

The Holy Spirit convicts' believers of sin. (John 16:5-11) The Holy Spirit is here to show the truth about sin. It is a destructive force, contrary to God and His will, that if not forgiven, leads to death and eternal damnation.

The Holy Spirit gives inspiration. (II Timothy 3:16, II Peter 1:21) The Holy Spirit gives insight and inspiration to all believers.

The Holy Spirit provides comfort. (John 14:16, Acts 9:31) The Holy Spirit comforts believers in times of sorrow and restlessness. There are times in the life of a believer when the circumstances of life seem unbearable. God, in His infinite wisdom, has sent the Holy Spirit to comfort believers at such times.

The Holy Spirit is a gift from God. (John 14:15-26, Acts 2:1-4) God has sent the Holy Spirit to believers as a gift. God expects His children to accept and make use of all that He provides.

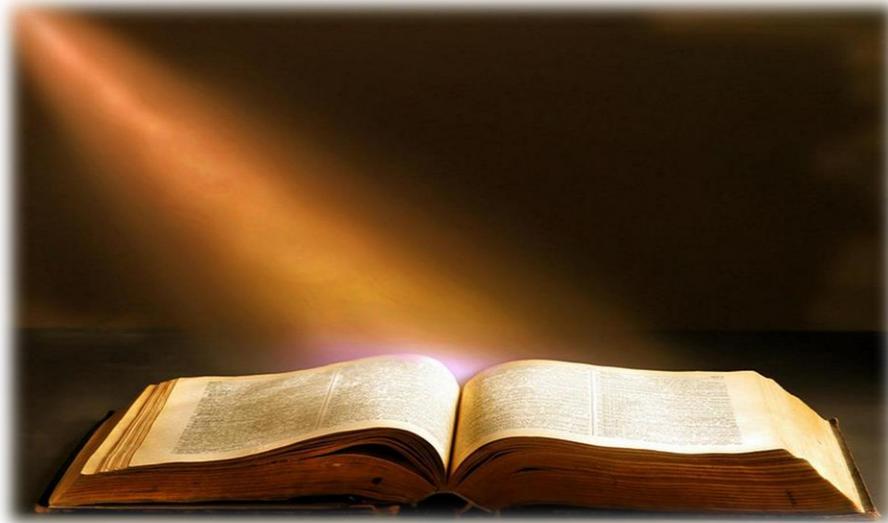
The Holy Spirit is a helper to believers. (Romans 8:26) God knows that believers cannot survive in this hostile world without someone helping them. His Holy Spirit helps believers navigate the sometimes-harsh environment of this world.

Review of The Holy Spirit:

1. The Holy Spirit provides _____ (John 14:16) for believers?
2. The Holy Spirit is a _____ (John 14:15-16) from God?
3. The Holy Spirit _____ (John 16:5-11) believers of sin?
4. The Holy Spirit is a _____ (Romans 8:14) to believers?
5. When believers need help, they can call on (Romans 8:26) _____.
6. The Holy Spirit _____ (II Corinthians 3:6) all believers?
7. God the Father, Son and _____ (Genesis 1:26, 1`1:7) were there in the beginning?
8. The Holy Spirit teaches believers. True or False
9. The Holy Spirit is impersonal. True or False
10. The Holy Spirit is not a teacher. True or False

Lesson 3

God's Word, Prayer and Tithe



Holy Bible

Believers must know these basic facts about the Bible:

“Bible” derives from the Greek term “books” and refers to the Old Testaments. God’s Holy Scriptures; the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired by God. It records God’s revelation of Himself to humans. It has God, the Holy Spirit for its author, salvation for its end and truth without mixture of error for its matter. The above all talks about God and His relationship with the world. The Bible is a rule or standard of authority for Christians.

The Bible is divided into two parts. The Old Testament was primarily written in Hebrew. Portions of Ezra, Nehemiah and Daniel are in Aramaic. It consists of thirty-nine (39) books. The New Testament was written in Greek. It consists of twenty-seven (27) books. Combined there are sixty-six (66) books. Combined there are sixty-six (66) books in the entire Bible.

These are the books of the Bible:

OLD TESTAMENT	NEW TESTAMENT
5 Books of the Law - Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy	4 Gospels - Matthew Mark/ Luke/ John
12 Books of History - Joshua Judges Ruth Samuel I Samuel II Samuel I Kings II Kings I Chronicles II Chronicles Ezra Nehemiah Esther	1 Book of History - Acts
5 Books of Poetry - Job/ Psalm/ Proverbs / Ecclesiastes / Song of Solomon	21 Letters – Romans / I Corinthians/ II Corinthians / Galatians / Ephesians / Philippians/ Colossians/ I Thessalonians Thessalonians/ I Timothy/ II Timothy Philemon/ Hebrews/ James/ I Peter/ II Peter/ I John/ II John/ III John/ Jude
17 Books of Prophecy - Isaiah/ Jeremiah/ Lamentations/ Ezekiel/ Daniel/ Hosea/ Joel/ Amos/ Obadiah/ Jonah/ Micah/ Nahum Habakkuk/ Zephaniah/ Haggai/ Zechariah/ Malachi	1 Book of Prophecy - Revelation

The Bible:

- *Is life to believers (Deuteronomy 8:3)*
- *Enlightens believers (Psalm 119:103-105)*
- *Is knowledge and power to believers (Matthew 22:29)*
- *Offers comfort to believers (Romans 15:4)*
- *Tells believers that God loved them first (I John 4:19)*
- *Contains the commandments of God (Exodus 20)*
- *Informs believers that God is their Shepherd (Psalm 23)*
- *Tells believers of the power of faith (Matthew 21:18-22)*
- *Tells believers of the power of prayer and praise (Acts 16:23-26)*
- *Tells believers that they are free of sin (Romans 6:3:23)*
- *Tells believers that Jesus will return (I Thessalonians 4:16)*

Listed here are only a few subjects that are revealed in the Bible and they only scratch the surface of what God wants to reveal to His Children through the study of His Word.

Review of the Holy Bible:

1. The Bible is divided into two parts. They are _____,
_____.
2. How many books are in the Old Testament _____?
3. How many books are there total in the Bible _____?
4. The Bible tells believers that there _____ is displayed through their actions.
5. The Bible does not tell believer that Jesus will return (I Thessalonians 4:16)
True or False
6. The Bible tells believers that there is power in their praise (Acts 16:23-26)
True or False
7. The Bible tells believers that God loved them first (I John 4:19)
True or False
8. The Bible tells believers that they can never be free from sin (Romans 6:12-14)
True or False
9. God is the Shepherd of His people (23rd Psalm)
True or False

Prayer

Prayer is the means of communication between God and believers. It is the believer's greatest weapon. It is used to both talk to and hear from God. When properly used it allows the believer to speak intimately with God and strengthen the relationship between believers and God.

Prayer is:

Commanded by God (Luke 18:1) Believers must be obedient to God in all things at all times. Always pray with faith In God.

The means by which believers do great things (James 5:16) Prayer transforms the request of the believer into a reality.

Taught by Christ (Matthew 6:5-15) Believers must pray in the manner that is consistent with what Jesus teaches. Prayer is a daily responsibility of believers.

Must be done in the name of Jesus (John 14:13) Believers must make all request to the Father in the name of Jesus.

Is sometimes public (John 11:41-42) Jesus tells believers to go into their prayer closet to pray both public and private. (Matthew 6:6)

How should believers pray? Let's use the acronym **A.C.T.S:**

A – Adoration. Address God as Our Father, Heavenly Father, Gracious God, Merciful God...

C – Confession. Confess our sins and ask for forgiveness.

T – Thankfulness. Thank God for His love, grace, mercy, and provisions.

S – Supplication – Make your request known to God for whatever you are in need of.

Remember to end prayer in the name of Jesus Christ!

"Amen" should end every prayer of believers. Amen is the transliteration of Hebrew word signifying something as certain, sure and valid, truthful and faithful. It is sometimes translated, "so be it."

Learn how to pray from Jesus. Starting from His great “pattern” prayer in Luke 11:1-13:

When you pray, say;

⁹ “Pray like this: ‘Our Father in heaven, Your name is holy. ¹⁰ May Your holy nation come. What You want done, may it be done on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us the bread we need today. ¹² Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Review of Prayer:

1. Believers should never pray in public True or False
2. Jesus did not teach on prayer True or False
3. Prayer is needed in critical moments. True or False
4. Prayer was commanded by God. True or False
5. Believers don't have to pray I the name of Jesus True or False
6. A prayer should never end with "Amen." True or False
7. Prayer is not the way to communicate with God. True or False
8. Prayer is a time to speak and listen to God True or False
9. Prayer strengthens the relationship between God and man. True or False.
10. Prayer is not a weapon for believers. True or False

Tithe and Offering

God has a financial plan for His church. God works by plan and He has a plan for everything. He had a plan when He created the earth and humans. He had a plan for the relationship between humans and Himself. He has a plan for the family. He has a plan of salvation and the work of the church. He has a plan for the financing of the work He has ordered the church to perform.

Tithe – Tenth part, especially as offered to God.

Abraham presented a tithe to the Priest – Melchizedek (Genesis 14:18-20).

Jacob pledged to offer God a tenth of all God would bless Jacob with (Genesis 28:22).

Old Testament

Purpose of Tithing

Tithing is a way of teaching us that God must be our first priority (Deuteronomy 14:22-23).

Tithing supports God's ministry of the church (I Corinthians 9:13-14).

Tithing helps us to remember that God is the owner of everything (Psalm 24:1).

Blessing for Obedience Regarding Tithing

Those who properly pay their tithes, are blessed by God (Malachi 3:10-12).

Consequences for Disobedience Regarding Tithing

Those who were disobedient regarding tithing were condemned with a curse from God (Malachi 3:8-9).

Other Teachings in the New Testament

I Corinthians 16:2 teaches that believers are to give "as God has prospered" us. This Scripture teaches of giving above and beyond the tithe.

Tithing causes the practitioner to be blessed (Luke 6:38).

Tithing falls under the principle of sowing and reaping (Galatians 6:8).

Giving to God should be cheerfully done (II Corinthians 9:7).

We believe in God's plan in everything, and we believe that every member of the church should pay the tithe and give an offering to the Lord. Tithing is done by

bringing God a tenth of our income. This, in turn, would mean that God's people would be able to do mighty works for Him and carry out the commandment of Christ in Matthew 28:19-20.

Review of Tithe and Offering

1. What percentage of a person's income is the tithe? _____.
2. What is the purpose of tithe?
 - A. Psalm 24:1 _____.
 - B. I Corinth 9: 13-14 _____
 - C. Deuteronomy 14:22-23 _____
3. What are the consequences for being disobedient regarding the tithe? (Malachi 3:8-9) _____.
4. What are the blessings of being obedient in tithing? (Malachi 3:10-12)
_____.
5. What did Jesus say should not be neglected even more when a person tithe? (Matthew 23:23) _____.

Lesson 4

Service and Submission



Five Principles for Christian Service

Being obedient to the Word of God, we strive to live our mission statement daily. As a reminder we have adopted and adhere to five principles. They are as follows:

1. **Discipleship** – Service. Discipleship consists of being of service to God and others.

2. **Students** – Self Improvement. By being a Bible student, we learn more about God and His will. This improves our conditions and transforms us into His likeness.
3. **Teachers** – As we learn and grow closer to God. He wants us to share Him with others. We accomplish this by teaching and living what we have learned as students. While we are students for life, we must move to the dual role of student/teacher.
4. **Leaders** – Example Setters. Although we realize that none are perfect, each of us should be striving to live a life that pleases God. We recognize that others, some we may not be aware of, look to us for guidance. We must lead by example.
5. **Evangelists** – Soul Winners. This takes us back to the Great Commission and our mission statement. We must reach out to others.

Principles for Christian Service

Being obedient to the Word of God, we strive to live our mission statement daily.



Mt. Carmel Church Ministries

"Mt. Carmel has several different ministries all working together to achieve the church's mission.

Worship Ministries

Worship ministries help to facilitate a superior worship experience for all members and visitors. The current ministries aid in providing an entire worship experience:

- Music
 - Mass Choir; Men's Choir; Women's Choir; Student Life Choir, Dance, & Drama; eMerge Choir, Dance & Drama, Signs of Praise.
- Bookstore
- Media
- Parking lot
- Ushers

Engaging Ministries:

Each ministry has designated times to meet. During the meeting times, the ministry group focuses on meeting the spiritual needs of its members. Ministry members meet to fulfill a particular spiritual need in a smaller intimate setting.

- Men
- Women
- Seniors
- Youth (Student Life)
- Hospitality/Greeters
- Young Adults (eMerge)
- Event
- Funeral Repast
- Sewing Sisters
- Prayer Warriors



Community Ministries

Each member is encouraged to serve our church and our community. The ministries below concentrate on providing a particular outreach service to meet the needs of our community.

- Food Pantry
- Missionary/Evangelism

Pastoral Support

Associate Ministers

"So, Christ, Himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors, and teachers to equip His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ". Ephesians 4: 11-13

Mission Statement: To function in a spiritually mature, and effective way, by exercising our gifts, to strengthen and encourage the church, and come alongside our Pastor in ministering to the members here at the Mt. Carmel Church, and in our surrounding community.

Deacon Ministry

Our Mission: The duties of the deacons are to minister to the needs of the members of the congregation. The diaconate is a ministry of service and support. It is specifically commissioned to address the spiritual needs of the membership as relates to grief, illness, birth, death, crisis (i.e., tragedies, accidents, legal dilemmas, incarcerations, etc.), and other similar ministries to the church body as needs occur, but in cooperation with the pastor (Acts 6:2-4).

Not everyone can perform the sensitive ministry that the diaconate may require. However, there are certain basic biblical qualifications that must be evident for one to be a part of this critical ministry in the church. They are servants

of the church. They don't give orders to the church; they receive instructions from the pastor and the church. "They should never arrogate to themselves any authority for running the church. Their greatest service to the church will usually be found in their assistance to the pastor."

The biblical references to this ministry's operation are found in Acts 6:1-7 as well as 1Timothy 3:8-13. Additionally, they must be committed to tithing (Malachi 3:8-10), given to consistent attendance at worship prayer, and living a dedicated Christian life that is sensitive to the operation and function of our church.

So that this ministry may function in its highest capacity each deacon is committed to serving a delegated population of this congregation.

Church Ministries Mission Statements:

Bookstore Ministry

Our bookstore will provide Christian materials for your spiritual growth.

eMerge/Young Adults

Our Mission: To create a network of young adults that promote spiritual growth, ministry involvement, and fellowship. The ministry will provide resources to help young adults apply spiritual principles in family, work, and social life.

Food Pantry

Our Mission: To meet the short-term needs of the community, by providing groceries for those in need, on a temporary basis.

Funeral/Repast

Our Mission: To coordinate and organize repast dinners for our church member's families.

Greeters/Hospitality Ministry

Our Mission: To welcome every visitor and member to the house of God and make them feel at home. Give a smile, a warm handshake, a hug, all while having a positive attitude and displaying the love of God. Lead all church-related fellowship meals and church-wide activities that are designed to foster spiritual oneness with the congregation.

Health & Wellness

Our Mission: To provide the congregation and community with beneficial information & tools that encourage individuals to continually lead a healthy lifestyle. We will meet medical needs that may arise during the worship service.

Media Ministry

Our Mission: To make available audio CDs and video DVDs of activities held in the name of Mt. Carmel Church (which are appropriately edited to minimize dead space, exclude announcements, etc.) for the benefit of persons desiring to have future opportunities to listen to specific messages and music presented in our church. These CDs & DVDs are provided for a nominal fee to cover the costs of the materials of reproduction, however, they are made available for free to our sick and shut-in, incarcerated, and out-of-town college student members, when requested items.

Men's Ministry

Our Mission: To build on our Christian foundation by studying the word of God, uniting the men of the Church, and introducing others to the word of God. To provide outreach to the community, our peers, and younger brothers. To foster the Gospel values in our society, promoting the dignity of the human person, the importance of the family, and the common good of our society so that our nation may continue to be transformed by the saving power of Jesus.

Missionary/Evangelism Ministry

Our Mission: To meet the needs of persons on foreign and home mission fields.

Music Ministry

Our Mission: To offer quality Christian music that enhances the atmosphere of worship and other scheduled activities of the church. A choir of volunteer singers, instrumentalists, and directors meet weekly to prepare songs and music for the weekly worship under the primary directorship of a staffed musician within the church. It is for edifying the body of Christ, educating the people of God with His Word in song: through music that is biblically based, Christ-centered, and Holy Spirit anointed.

Parking Lot

Our Mission: To provide service with excited passion by demonstrating our love for God and neighbor by socially empowering our members and our community as they come to worship our God.

Prayer Warriors Ministry

Our Mission: To foster prayer partnership with members of our congregation.

Senior Citizens Ministry

Our Mission: To create a network of seniors to promote wellness, ministry involvement, and fellowship.

Sewing Sisters Ministry

Our Mission: To share the love of Jesus Christ through sewing. This service reaches far beyond the Mt. Carmel Family into the city of Indianapolis. These sisters use the threads of Jesus' love to provide quilts, neck braces, and hats for those in need.

Sunday School Ministry

Our Mission: To equip the members of the church through an organized study of the Word of God and to enable and empower them as "biblically" informed resources whose faith is securely founded on the truth of God's Word (II Timothy 2:15). The Sunday school primarily meets (but is not limited to) Sunday mornings at 9:45 A.M. for one hour with classes provided for every age group of the church population. All members upon arrival and application for membership are automatically enrolled into the Sunday school program and are initially acquainted with the operation of the church through new member orientation (currently a six-week training curriculum for new members).

Usher Ministry

Our mission: To be a vehicle through which the Holy Spirit can work to create an atmosphere wherein those entering the House of the Lord may feel welcomed and make sure that those who worship at our church have every convenience made available to them. Our job is to meet every proper need of the worshipper during the worship experience.

Women's Ministry

Our mission: To empower and unite Christian women by the Word of God for the purpose of mentoring, evangelizing, educating, and supporting females of all ages.

Youth Ministry

Our mission: To work as a unified body to enhance and support the youth of the church.



Mt. Carmel Community Development Corporation (MCCDC)

The mission of Mt. Carmel Church is to demonstrate our love for God and neighbor by spiritually, financially, educationally, politically, and socially empowering our members and community. In 2017 the Mt. Carmel Community Development Corporation (MCCDC), a separate 501(c)(3), "supporting organization," was birthed to carry out the community initiatives of the church. The MCCDC oversees a three-pronged initiative, known as the E³Project,

that addresses three basic needs in our community:

EATS, to provide food access to a food desert.

ECONOMICS, to provide financial security to a community plagued with predatory lending; and

EDUCATION, to provide educational opportunity where an increased number of schools have closed in our neighborhoods.

Vision

The Far Eastside is a flourishing, viable, unified, and empowered community.

Mission

Mt. Carmel Community Development Corporation (MCCDC) leads, advocates, and champions initiatives to meet the spiritual and physical needs of those who live, work, and worship on the Far Eastside of Indianapolis.

Many staff and volunteer hours have been invested in these three initiatives to develop frameworks, structure, partnerships, and connect resources to develop these projects. We are excited about the progress that we have made and look forward to 2020's goals and advancements.



The Fathers Farm, Farmers Market, and Food Co-op

VISION

The church and the Far Eastside community bound together in providing spiritual and physical nourishment for our family's.

MISSION

Mt. Carmel Farmers Market and Fathers Farm, a joint effort to eliminate the Far Eastside food desert, while also promoting healthy living, by providing access to fresh ingredients for cooking to improve quality of life and wellbeing.

Mt. Carmel Farmers Market was established to offer fresh, healthy food to the Far Eastside Community. The Father's Farm which is located on the grounds of Mt. Carmel Church, plants, and grows vegetables and fruits. The farm is maintained by the members of the church with assistance from the community. The church works in conjunction with hired farmers to prepare the ground for the growing season. Church members, along with community support, work together to plant, nurture, and harvest.

The Food Co-op is taking the challenge to help resolve the Far Eastside's Food desert issue. The Mount Carmel Food Co-op group believes that quality, affordable food should not be a luxury but a RIGHT TO EVERYONE regardless of economic status. We exist to make good food available to all.

The Mt. Carmel Farmers Market is a monthly market held on the church grounds during the growing season, to provide easy access to the Fathers Farm fresh produce. Mt. Carmel Farmers Market also invites local farmers and establishments to come alongside in providing easy access to fresh, healthy, and affordable foods. [Click here to visit our Farmers Market website.](#)

For more information on how you can support the Fathers Farm and Farmers Market initiative and get updates on its progress, please contact, Rev. Lola Bartlett at lolabartlett@mtcarmelindy.org 317-890-2740 ext. 12. Market Master Cheryl Ross at mtcarmel@mtcarmelindy.org 317-890-2740 ext. 12. [Click here to visit our Farmers Market website.](#)



Charter High School

VISION

Mt. Carmel High School will prepare young men for academic excellence and instill a sense of civic responsibility.

MISSION

Mt. Carmel High School on the far eastside educates young men while providing tools to empower them to live up to their God-given potential.

Carmel values education and envisions starting an all-boys charter high school, grades 6 through 12, in response to some of the problems our community faces in educating our African American students.

Research shows that:

- African Americans are disproportionately suspended & expelled from Indiana schools.
- Many AA males do not meet the minimum requirements for high school graduation.
- Indiana ranks as one of the 10 worst states in terms of AA males' 4-year school graduation rates.
- Preparing students for college and post-high school, as early as 6th grade has guaranteed benefits.
- Additionally, considering the recent high school closings throughout the city, to include John Marshall in our own neighborhood, we see a need to support quality & accessible education for the students of our community. Mt. Carmel envisions a school that will improve the educational achievement levels of African American males by providing an innovative curriculum, which prepares students for progression to post-secondary education and/or other career-focused pursuits.

Values and Philosophy

What problem(s) are we trying to solve? Why do we want to start a charter school?

- Failure rate of young men; high school dropout rate; complacency of not pursuing education beyond high school
- Educational system failures, justice system failure, and the school to prison pipeline
- Limitations to educational access on the Far Eastside

- Pride
- Integrity
- Respect
- Love of learning
- Accountability
- Leadership
- Honesty
- Love of Self and Others
- Honor
- Self-reliance
- Community
- Team/Interdependence

What do we want to be true for our students in terms of outcomes?

- High graduation rates
- College and/or career readiness:
 - Enrollment and persistence in post-secondary education
 - Engagement in a career path (vocational trades, certificate programs)
 - SAT / ACT/ AP/ Dual Credit completion
 - Soft skills
 - Internships/work experience
 - Study abroad and travel experiences
 - Technology skills
 - Mastery/excellence in reading, math, & writing
- Ability to think critically
- High scholastic pursuits
 - Goal-oriented
 - Love of learning
- Civic responsibility
- Lifelong learners
- Cultural enhancement/expansive view of the world
- Students are models of academic excellence and good character

For more information on how you can support the charter school initiative and get updates on its progress, please contact, Tanya Johnson at tanyajohnson@mtcarmelindy.org, 317-890-2740 ext. 18.

Federal Credit Union



Due to the area's low-income population: high poverty and unemployment rates; and a high dependency ratio, the far-eastside is deemed one of the most financially insecure areas of Indianapolis. A credit union is a financial institution that is a not-for-profit organization owned by all its members. Credit unions focus on helping their members save, borrow, and receive affordable financial services. With at least

three banks closing in the immediate area over the last several years, and a significant number of predatory lenders in its place (payday loans, check cashing, pawn shops), the option of having a federal credit union in the community would lend to developing financial security to the area.

This Board & committee has been committed to the process of starting a credit union by securing a solid partnership with the Indiana Credit Union League, receiving the charter from the National Credit Union Association to formalize and begin an extensive 17-step process. In 2018, members of the team visited the Ft. Wayne Union Baptist credit union, a black-owned credit union that also started at a church, to observe and learn best practices. The group has also surveyed the community to gauge interests, which confirmed the community's need for financial institutions & services in our neighborhood. Already we have completed 7 of the 17 steps and are diligently working through this immense process. One of the major goals for 2019 is to complete the business plan for submission to the NCUA.

For more information on how you can support the federal credit union initiative and get updates on its progress, please contact, Victoria Goggans at victoriagoggans@mtcarmelindy.org, 317-890-2740 ext. 13.



Mission Statement

*We are God's people engaging the **power** of the Holy Spirit to execute our divine **purpose**, to make disciples for our Lord Jesus Christ through evangelism, preaching of the Gospel, teaching, witnessing, stewardship, fellowship and worship with excited **passion** to demonstrate our love for God and neighbor by spiritually, financially, educationally, politically and socially empowering our members and community.*