

Module 101 – Session 1

Why Am I Here, Why Do I Exist, What is My Purpose

James 4:14 – ***“Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”*** KJV

I. WHY AM I HERE?

- A. Most people live their entire lives without ever knowing "WHY?" They **exist** year after year with no idea of why they live and don't know that God has a **purpose** for their lives. The most basic question a person can ask is, "What is the meaning of my life?" Everyone wants to be happy and people try to achieve happiness in many ways.

Power...Possessions...Pleasure...Prestige

- B. If this world, with all its money, possessions, and entertainment, could provide all the happiness we need, why are most people still **searching** for real happiness?

- a. Because real happiness only comes from finding my **purpose**! I was created by God to have a personal **relationship** with Him. We were created to give God pleasure.

Rev 4:11 - ***"You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power. For you created everything, and it is for your pleasure that they exist and were created."*** NLT

Isa 43:7 – ***"Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him."*** KJV

- C. When I love the Lord and live in harmony with His purpose, it produces incredible benefits!

- a. I become a part of the **family** of God!

Eph 2:19-20 – ***"Now you are no longer strangers to God and foreigners to heaven, but you are members of God's very own family, citizens of God's country, and you belong in God's household with every other Christian. 20 What a foundation you stand on now: the apostles and the prophets; and the cornerstone of the building is Jesus Christ himself !*** TLB

- i. The church is a family and God expects us to be members of a spiritual family.

ii. A Christian without a church family is an orphan.

- We need each other.

Eph. 4:3 - ***"I don't want anyone strolling off, down some path that goes nowhere. And mark that you do this with humility and discipline-not in fits and starts, but steadily pouring yourselves out for each other in acts of love, alert at noticing differences and quick at mending fences."*** (MES)

- We need a Pastor. Where Jesus says to Peter below, "Feed my sheep," that word "feed" comes from the word **"poimen"** which means tend, feed, care for.

John 21:17 - ***"He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep."*** KJV

iii. What's the difference between being a Christian and being a member of a church family? The difference is the word **"commitment"**. I become a member of a church by committing myself to other Christians.

Ephesians 2:21-22 - ***"We who believe are carefully joined together with Christ as parts of a beautiful, constantly growing temple for God. 22 And you also are joined with him and with each other by the Spirit and are part of this dwelling place of God."*** (TLB)

Fifty-eight times in the Bible it uses the phrase "one another". It says, "Love one another, Care for one another ... Greet one another... Encourage one another ... Pray for one another ... Counsel one another ... Share with one another ... Help one another..."

We cannot do that unless we are part of a church family!

b. I receive **power** and strength.

Phil 4:13 - ***"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."*** KJV

Acts 1:8 - ***"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."*** KJV

c. I receive life and **peace.**

Rom 8:6 – ***"For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."*** KJV

d. I receive **confidence.**

Prov 3:26 – ***"For the Lord shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken."*** KJV

e. I receive **security.**

Rom 8:38-39 – ***"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*** KJV

f. Help with **weaknesses.**

Rom 8:26 – ***"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."*** KJV

g. I receive a clear **conscience.**

Rom 8:1-2 – ***"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."*** KJV

h. I receive **fulfillment.**

Phil 4:19 – ***"You can be sure that God will take care of everything you need, his generosity exceeding even yours...."*** Message

Ps 16:11 – ***"Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."*** KJV

i. I receive **freedom.**

John 8:32 – ***"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*** KJV

II. FIVE REASONS WHY WE EXIST

A. We exist to celebrate God's presence - **WORSHIP.**

1. This is the number one priority of our church because it is the number one priority for our lives. We were made to have a **relationship** with God. We were made to have fellowship with Him.

Matt 4:10 – ***"...Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."*** KJV

John 4:23-24 – ***"But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."*** KJV

- God is looking for true worshippers so He can bless them.

2. When we come to church to worship, there are three things that need to take place.

- **Celebration**. Psalm 122:1 David says, ***"I was glad when they said unto me, let us go unto the house of the Lord."*** (KJV) One of the distinctions of Christian Life Center is people love to be here.
- **Inspiration**. Isaiah 40:31 says ***"...they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."*** (KJV)
- **Preparation**. Our services are prepared through prayer, study and sensitivity. Music has been prepared through practice and through anointing.

B. We exist to communicate God's word – Evangelism.

1. The definition of evangelism is "sharing the good news".

Rom 10:13-14 – ***"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. 14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?"*** KJV

Matt 28:18-19 – ***"Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations..."*** NLT

2. The point is, you wouldn't know about God unless **somebody** told you. Most people come to church because someone invited them and told them about God.

C. We exist to grow God's family – Fellowship.

1. God loves people.

John 3:16 – ***"For God so greatly loved and dearly prized the world that He [even] gave up His only begotten (unique) Son, so that whoever believes in (trusts in, clings to, relies on) Him shall not perish (come to destruction, be lost) but have eternal (everlasting) life."*** AMP

2. God commands us to reach out.

Luke 14:23 – ***"And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled."*** KJV

3. Growth is God's will. It's His will that His church grows.

Matthew 16:18 – ***"...I will build My church..."*** (KJV)

Acts 2:46-47 – ***"And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."*** KJV

4. Doesn't growth cause a church to get large and cold and impersonal? Not if you make sure that it doesn't. While the church is going to keep growing larger, it grows smaller by involving people in LIFE Groups.
 - i. Christian Life Center is a Life Group Church. We meet every Sunday afternoon/evening all across this area.
 - ii. Life Group is a small group meeting that takes place in the home. It creates an atmosphere where people can share hearts and share lives; providing transformation through fellowship with each other and with God.
5. As the church gets bigger, you need to be in a small group where somebody knows your name and knows what's going on in your life. There is help for you when you're sick or in the hospital, have some kind of tragedy, or just the normal vicissitudes of life.

D. We exist to educate God's people – Discipleship.

1. Discipleship means: helping believers grow spiritually.

Hebrews 6:1 – ***"...Let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity..."*** (NIV)

2. It takes more than just coming to **know** Jesus Christ in a personal relationship. The Bible says we must mature and become **like** Jesus Christ.

Rom 8:28-29 – ***"28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. 29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."*** KJV

E. We exist to demonstrate God's love – Ministry.

1. A definition of ministry is meeting needs with **love**.

John 13:35 – ***"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."*** KJV

2. The heartbeat of ILCDA is our **LIFE** groups. This is the place where you need to get **involved**; where you will be part of a small intimate group. In these small groups you will develop friendships and have an opportunity to minister to one another through that love.

III. What Is My Purpose

A. Love God With All My Heart

Deut 6:5 – ***"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might."*** KJV

B. Love My Neighbor As Myself

Matt. 22: 36-38 - ***Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."*** KJV

C. The Great Commission

Matt 28:19-20 – ***"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."*** KJV

- Go And Make Disciples – that's **evangelism**.
- Teach Them All Things – that's **discipleship**.

Ephesians 4:11-13 - **"He is the one who gave these gifts to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ, until we come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature and full grown in the Lord, measuring up to the full stature of Christ."** (NLT)

- Church Leadership is an equipping ministry!

IV. SO WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

- A. Man has a natural desire to be his own boss and to ignore God's principles for living. The Bible calls this attitude **sin**.

"Look out for #1." "Do your own thing." "If it feels good, do it - regardless of what God says about it."

Isa 53:6 - **"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."** KJV

I John 1:8 - **"If we say we have no sin [refusing to admit that we are sinners], we delude and lead ourselves astray and the Truth [which the Gospel presents] is not in us [does not dwell in our hearts]."** (AMP)

- B. Sin **breaks** our close relationship with the Lord and causes us to try to live our lives outside of His will.

Isaiah 59:1-2 - **"But there is a problem--your sins have cut you off from God. Because of your sin, he has turned away and will not listen anymore."** (NLT)

Rom 3:23 - **"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"** KJV

- C. When our relationship with God is not **right**, it causes problems in every area of our lives - marriage, career, relationships, finances, etc.

- a. When people have problems, they often try many different ways of coping before turning to God.

Prov 16:25 - **"There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."** KJV

- D. Even when we realize that our deepest need is God, we often try our own **reasoning** to try and get to know Him, thinking that it will get us where we need to be. Some say:

"I'll give up all my bad habits." "I'll work real hard and earn salvation."

"I'll be religious and go to church." It doesn't matter what you believe - just be sincere."

V. WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

- A. God came to earth as a human being to bring us back to Himself. The solution is a **savior**!

Matt 1:21 – ***"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."*** KJV

- B. All of the major world religions attempt to point the way to truth. But Jesus Christ says, ***"I AM the truth!"*** Jesus has already taken care of your sin problem!

Rom 5:8 – ***"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."*** KJV

- C. Jesus gives each of us an invitation and it is up to us to respond. We have to do something.

Luke 11:9&10 – ***"And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. ¹⁰For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."*** KJV

VI. WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO? (It's As Easy as "ABC")

1. **Admit** that there is a problem! Tell God that you are willing to set aside your own selfish will, give Him first place in your life and receive His gift of salvation.
2. **Become** a Christian by obeying God's salvation plan given to us in the Bible. (God requires more than mere intellectual belief - He wants to really change your life!) Anyone can say that they are Born Again, but has there been a true **transformation**.

Def. of Transform: **1 a:** to change in composition or structure **b:** to change the outward form or appearance of **c:** to change in character or condition : **CONVERT**

II Corinthians 5:17 – ***"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."*** (KJV)

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- 3. Commit** yourself to a church family where you can receive encouragement as you begin your new life.

Module 101 - Session 2

The Road to Salvation – Part 1

I. IT ALL BEGINS WITH GRACE

A. Grace simply means “the **divine influence** upon the **heart**.”

Eph 2:7&8 – ***That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:” KJV***

Titus 2:11,12- ***“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;” KJV***

B. His **love** paid the price for what we did not deserve.

1 John 2:2 – ***“And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.” KJV***

1 John 2:2- “He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.” NLT

Propitiation means: The means of appeasing

II. WE MUST HAVE FAITH – BELIEVE WHAT HE SAYS!

A. The Bible teaches that it is absolutely essential to **believe** in God, or we will never take another step toward being saved.

Heb 11:6 – ***“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” KJV***

B. Receiving God’s grace **requires** faith.

Eph 2:8 – ***“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:” KJV***

C. Faith results in **salvation**.

1 Peter 1:7-9 – ***"That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: 8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: 9 Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls."*** KJV

III. OBEDIENCE – PUTTING ACTION TO MY FAITH

A. As important as faith is, faith by itself is incomplete. Believing alone doesn't constitute salvation. Real faith becomes the propelling force that causes you to **act** on what you believe.

James 2:14 – ***"Dear brothers and sisters, what's the use of saying you have faith if you don't prove it by your actions? That kind of faith can't save anyone."*** (NLT)

James 2:26 – ***"For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."*** KJV

B. Obedience to His Word brings salvation.

Heb 5:9 – ***"and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him"*** NIV

IV. WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

A. Where does the term "born again" come from and what does it mean? Let's look at John 3:3-5 and see where it started.

John 3:3-5 – ***"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. 4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? 5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."*** KJV

B. In Acts chapter 2, where the Holy Ghost was first poured out, the onlookers heard those in the Upper Room speaking in tongues.

Acts 2:1-6 – ***"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."***

5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. 6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.” KJV

1. When they did not understand and began to ask questions, Peter stood up and preached to them. Peter’s words pricked their heart and they asked a question; What must we **do**?

Acts 2:37-38 – **“Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? 38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” KJV**

2. Peter answered the question, giving them the 3 basic elements of salvation: **repentance**, **baptism**, and the infilling of the Holy **Spirit**. This is the way that we are born again of the **water** and the **spirit**.

3. Just because it is a gift does not mean it is not essential.

Rom. 6:23 – **“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” KJV**

V. THE THREE ELEMENTS OF SALVATION

A. Repentance

1. Repentance is defined as a **“turning around”** or an “about face” – an inward change of **attitude** leading to an outward change of **action**.
Unless both of these occur, real repentance has not taken place.

Acts 26:20 – **“... that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.” (NKJV)**

2. Repentance is absolutely essential for salvation. God wants to save us but requires us to respond to His love by turning **from** sin. Feeling sorry for our sin is not enough. It takes **action**!

Luke 13:3 – **“I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.” (KJV)**

Matt 1:21 – **“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.” KJV**

2 Cor 7:10 – ***"For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death."*** KLV

B. Water Baptism

1. God's Word teaches that water baptism is **essential** for salvation, and gives us very specific requirements as to the mode (what is DONE) and the formula (what is SAID) in baptism.

1 Peter 3:20-21 – ***"Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. 21 The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:"*** KJV

Mark 16:15-16 – ***"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."*** KJV

2. Who should be baptized?

- a. Every person who has believed the Gospel of Jesus Christ and repented of their sins.

Acts 2:38-41 – ***"38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. 41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."*** KJV

- b. Those who have been baptized **previously** in a different way than the baptism specified by the Apostles for the New Testament church, need to be re-baptized.

Acts 19:1-6 – ***"19 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, 2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. 3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. 4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied."*** KJV

3. Why should I be baptized?

- a. To follow the **example** set by Jesus Christ.

Matt 3:13-15 – ***"Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him."*** KJV

- b. Because the Lord **commanded** it.

Mark 16:15-16 – ***"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."*** KJV

- c. Because the Apostles preached and commanded it and the New Testament church **practiced** it.

Acts 10:48 – ***"And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord..."*** KJV

Acts 18:8 – ***"And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized."*** KJV

4. When should I be baptized?

- a. As soon as you have believed and repented.

Acts 16:33 – ***"And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway."*** KJV
(speaking of Paul and Silas)

Acts 22:16 – ***"And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."*** KJV

- b. Before you "get your life **straightened** out."

- We don't get **good** to get God, we get **God** to get good!

5. What happens at baptism?

- a. My sins are washed away or remitted.

Acts 2:38 – ***"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."*** KJV

Acts 22:16 – ***"And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."*** KJV

- b. My conscience is washed and cleansed, so I can be free from my past way of thinking.

1 Peter 3:20-21 – ***"[The souls of those] who long before in the days of Noah had been disobedient, when God's patience waited during the building of the ark in which a few [people], actually eight in number, were saved through water. 21 And baptism, which is a figure [of their deliverance], does now also save you [from inward questionings and fears], not by the removing of outward body filth [bathing], but by [providing you with] the answer of a good and clear conscience (inward cleanness and peace) before God [because you are demonstrating what you believe to be yours] through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."*** AMP

- c. My body is buried in a "grave of water," portraying the death of my old life.

Rom 6:3-5 – ***"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:"*** KJV

Colossians 2:11-12 – ***"In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision not made with hands, but in a [spiritual] circumcision [performed by] Christ by stripping off the body of the flesh (the whole corrupt, carnal nature with its passions and lusts). [Thus you were circumcised when] you were buried with Him in [your] baptism, in which you were also raised with Him [to a new life] through [your] faith in the working of God [as displayed] when He raised Him up from the dead."*** (AMP)

- It's the New Testament circumcision.

- d. I am born again "of the water," portraying the birth of my new life.

John 3:5 – ***"Jesus answered, Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."*** (NKJ)

- e. I take upon myself the name of Jesus Christ, which is the only saving name.

Acts 4:12 – ***"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*** (KJV)

Col 3:17 – ***"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."*** KJV

Galatians 3:27 – ***"For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ."*** (KJV)

6. How should I be baptized?

- By being **immersed** in water.

7. Why should I be immersed?

- a. Because **Jesus** was baptized by immersion.

Matthew 3:16 - ***"When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water..."*** (NKJV)

- b. Because every baptism in the Bible was by immersion.

Acts 8:38-39 - ***"So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing."*** (NKJV)

- c. Because that's precisely what the word baptism means. The Greek Word "baptizo" literally means "to immerse or **submerge** under water."

8. Baptism – in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. WHY?

- a. Because Jesus is the only name that has the power to save us.

Phil 2:9-11- ***"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*** KJV

Acts 4:12 - ***"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*** (NKJV)

- b. Because The Name of:

- The Father is ... Jesus!

John 5:43 - ***"I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive."*** KJV

- The son is ... Jesus!

Matt 1:21 - ***"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."*** KJV

- The Holy Ghost is ... Jesus!
John 14:26 - ***"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name..."*** (KJV)

c. Because in Jesus dwells all the fullness of God in bodily form.

Col 2:8-10 - ***"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. 9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. 10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:"*** KJV

Isa 9:6 - ***"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."*** KJV

- This child is called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.
 - These are the titles of the role that this child/son will fulfill. But the child's name is Jesus!
- d. Because when you understand **who He is**, you understand that Matthew 28:19 was speaking of the **titles** and was not meant to be the means by which we baptize. Jesus was speaking to His disciples who knew that he was the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. If this scripture was meant to be used in baptism, why was everyone in the New Testament baptized according to Acts 2:38?

Matt 28:16-19 - ***"Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. 17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:"*** KJV

- No one in the bible has ever been baptized in the titles.
- e. Because every baptism in the book of Acts was performed in Jesus' name.
- **THE DAY OF PENTECOST:** Acts 2:38 - ***"Then Peter said to them, Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*** (NKJV)

- **THE SAMARITANS:** Acts 8:15-16 - *"...who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. 16 For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus."* (NKJV)

- **THE HOUSE OF CORNELIUS**

Acts 10:48 - *"And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days."* KJV

Acts 10:48 - *"So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ."* NIV

- **THE DISCIPLES OF JOHN**

Acts 19:5-6 - *"When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied."* KJV

- **PAUL'S BAPTISM**

Acts 22:16 - *"And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."* KJV

The Road to Salvation – Part 2

C. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

1. God's Word teaches that "Spirit baptism" is **essential** for salvation, and promises the Holy Ghost to every believer! The Holy Ghost is the indwelling Spirit of God, which gives us the power to live a Christian life.
2. The Baptism of the Holy Ghost is prophesied throughout the Bible.

- a. It was prophesied by **Isaiah**.

Isa 28:11- ***"For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people."*** KJV

1 Cor 14:21 – ***"In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord."*** KJV

- b. It was prophesied by **Joel**.

Joel 2:28-29 – ***"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit."*** KJV

- c. It was prophesied by John the Baptist.

Matt 3:11- ***"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:"*** KJV

- d. It was prophesied by Jesus Christ.

- i. When Jesus spoke of being born of the Spirit, without question He meant being baptized with the Holy Ghost

John 3:3-5 – ***3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. 4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?***

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5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." KJV

ii. Jesus foretells of the coming Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit

John 14:16-17 – "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." KJV

John 14:26- "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." KJV

John 15:26 – "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:" KJV

John 16:7,13 – "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. 13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come." KJV

iii. Jesus promises His followers that they will be baptized with the Holy Ghost shortly after His ascension to heaven.

Acts 1:4-5 – "4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. 5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence." KJV

3. Who can have the Holy Spirit? The Bible teaches that God is no respecter of persons, so **anyone** can receive this wonderful gift.

a. God's promise of the Holy Ghost is to be poured out on all flesh.

Joel 2:28 – "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:" KJV

b. God has promised to give the Holy Spirit to them that **ask** Him.

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Luke 11:9-13 – ***"And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. 10 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. 11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? 12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"*** KJV

4. What is the initial evidence of receiving the baptism of the Holy Ghost? The Bible teaches us that it is speaking in tongues.

- a. When the New Testament church began on the Day of Pentecost, the disciples spoke in tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:1-4 – ***"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."*** KJV

- b. Isaiah prophesied of God giving spiritual rest and speaking to His people through stammering lips and another tongue.

Isa 28:11-12 – ***"For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. 12 To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear."*** KJV

1 Cor 14:21 – ***"In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord."*** KJV

- c. Cornelius' household, who were gentiles, spoke with other tongues when they received the Holy Ghost.

Acts 10:44-48 – ***"While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. 45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, 47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days."*** KJV

- d. Paul had this experience (Acts 9:17-18), for he spoke with tongues more than anyone in the Corinthian church.

Acts 9:17-18 – ***"And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. 18 And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized."*** KJV

1 Cor 14:18 – ***"I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:"*** KJV

- e. Believers who had only experienced John's baptism were re-baptized and spoke with tongues.

Acts 19:1-6 – ***"And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, 2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. 3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. 4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied."*** KJV

5. Why did God choose speaking in tongues as a sign? We cannot be absolutely sure, but we must accept His plan by faith. Here are some possible reasons.

- a. The Bible teaches that ***"from the heart the mouth speaketh."***

Matt 12:34 – ***"O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh."*** KJV

- b. The tongue (our speech) is the chief means of ***expression***.

Prov. 18:21- ***"Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof."*** KJV

- c. The tongue is the most difficult member of the body to control.

James 3:2-8 – ***"For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body. 3 Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. 4 Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. 5 Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. 7 For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: 8 But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison."*** KJV

- d. Speaking in tongues is an obvious, universal, external and uniform sign.

Acts 11:15-17 – ***"And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. 16 Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost. 17 Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?"*** KJV

Acts 10:44-46 – ***"While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. 45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter"*** KJV

- e. Speaking in tongues provides "certainty" since it signifies Spirit baptism at a **definite point** in time.

Mark 16:15-17 – ***"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. 17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;"*** KJV

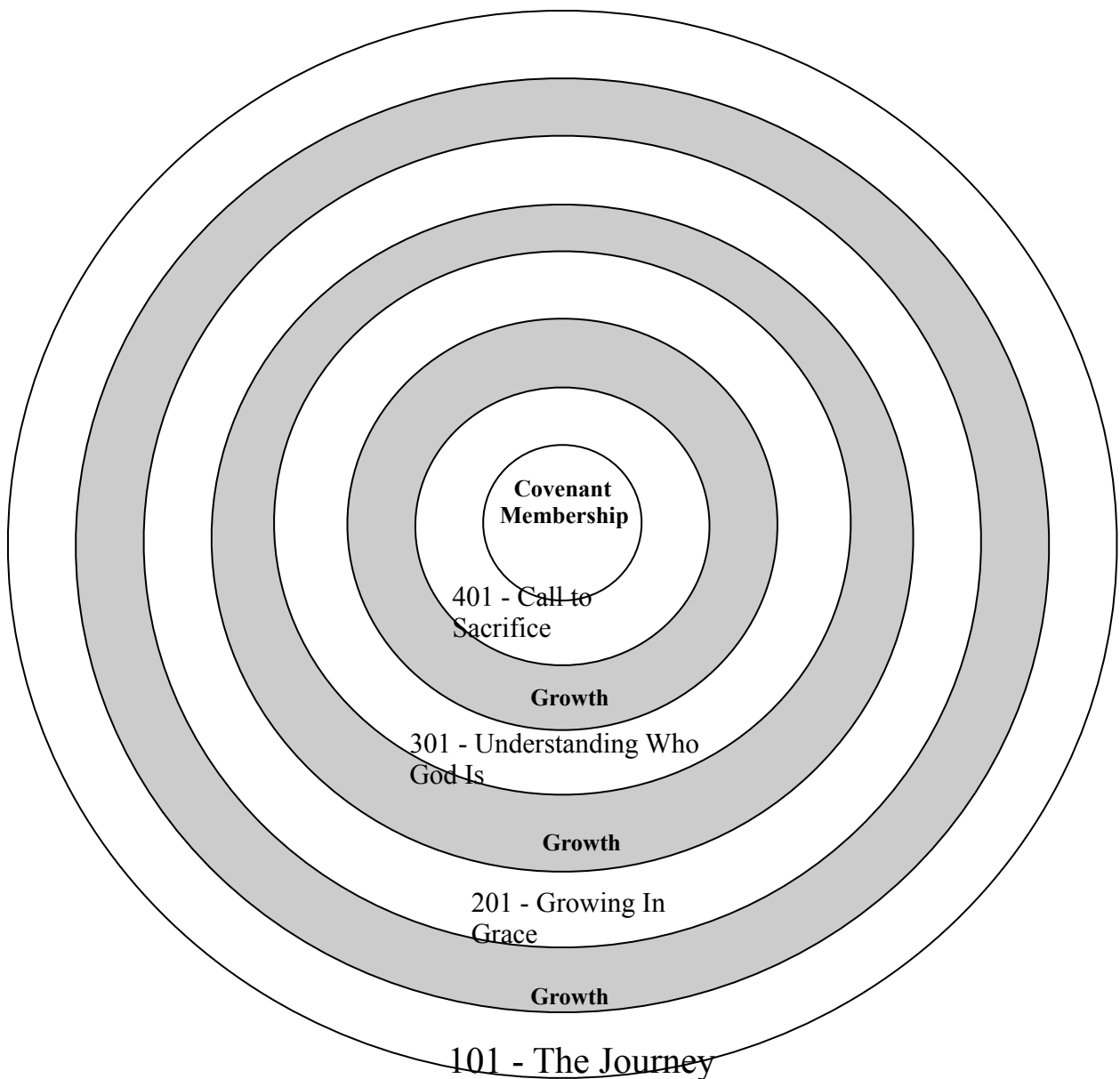
D. Your Commitment

1. At ILCD, our process for seeing lives changed by the power of God can be diagrammed in five concentric circles. Our goal is to keep people moving from the outside to the center, by encouraging spiritual commitment. It is very hard work to motivate people because of spiritual "inertia."

2. Definition of inertia –

- A property of matter by which it remains at rest or in uniform motion in the same straight line unless acted upon by some external force.
- Indisposition to motion, exertion, or change.

CIRCLE OF GROWTH



- A. As you move through these circles you will grow and mature in your relationship with God, thus providing an avenue where your destiny can be fulfilled. As you grow in the knowledge of who He is and you transform into His image, you will become a committed Christian working and helping others in the kingdom of God.



Congratulations on completing Module 101 of the Christian Development Course. If you have met the qualifications for General Membership, you may now become a General Member by signing the General Commitment Form and hand to your Journey Teacher. Once you sign this form, a certificate will be prepared for you. Certificates are presented in a Sunday morning service and you will receive notification on the date so that you can be present to receive it.

**Life Group – a place to make new friends and
be a part of a family!**

Now is also a good time to sign up for a Life Group. Ask your Journey Teacher for a form! Once you fill out this form you will be assigned to a group nearest you. You will be contacted by a Life Leader to let you know when and where the next meeting is held.

Life groups are held every 1st & 3rd Sundays.

ILCDA General Covenant

I have now completed Module 101 of the Christian Development Class and wish to become a General member of the Christian Life Center family. In doing so, I commit before God, the Pastors, and the members of my church to endeavor to do the following:

I have obeyed the plan of Salvation in the Bible by experiencing the New Birth.

- By repenting of my sins.
- By being baptized by immersion in the name of Jesus for the remission of my sins.

1. I was baptized - Date: _____

2. I was baptized at ILCDA _____ Another Church _____

- By receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues.

3. I received the Holy Ghost - Date: _____

4. I received it here at ILCDA _____ Another Church _____

Acts 2:38 – ***"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."*** KJV

John 3:3-5 – ***"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. 4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? 5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."*** KJV

1 Cor 12:12-13 – ***"For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."*** KJV

I will protect the unity of my church:

- By acting in love toward other members
- By resolving conflicts in a Biblical manner and refusing to gossip
- By following the leaders God has placed in our church

Rom 14:19 – ***"Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another."*** KJV

1 Peter 1:22 – ***"Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:"*** KJV

Eph 4:29 – ***"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."*** KJV

Heb 13:17 – ***"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."*** KJV

I will share the responsibility of my church:

- By praying for its leadership and growth
- By inviting the un-churched to attend
- By warmly welcoming those who visit
- By being faithful in my attendance on Sunday mornings, Life Group on Sunday afternoons/evenings, and a mid-week congregation.

General Member Name (Please Print) _____

General Member Signature _____

Date: _____

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- By being faithful in my attendance on Sunday mornings, Life Group on Sunday afternoon/evenings, and a mid-week congregation.

General Member Name (Please Print) _____

General Member Signature _____

Date of Birth: ____/____/____

Today's Date: _____

General Members

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Benefits</u>	<u>Ministries You Qualify For</u>
- Individual must be water baptized in Jesus Name and have the Holy Ghost evidenced by speaking in other tongues as per Acts 2:38 - Individual must demonstrate regular church attendance and consider ILCDA their home church	- Immediate bonding and fellowship within the ILCDA family - Assignment to a Life Group where the member can receive individual attention and assistance - Opportunities to sign up for a personal home bible study or The Journey Class - Participation in church activities - Hospital/home visits by Sr. Pastor and ministers - Extensive Children's Ministry for your children	Fellowship Forum - Ladies Ministry Volunteer - Marrieds Ministry Volunteer - Men's Ministry Volunteer - Singles Ministry Volunteer - Young Adults Volunteer Missions Forum - Church-wide Evangelism - Damascus Gardens Volunteer - Homeless Outreach - Clothes Closet - Food Bank - Pro-Life Volunteer Stewardship Forum - Branding & Design - Building Maintenance - Event Cleaning - Garden & Grounds Worship Forum - Baptistery Cleaning - Drama Volunteer

Community Members

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Benefits</u>	<u>Ministries You Qualify For</u>
• Must meet criteria for General Membership plus... • Individual must be currently enrolled in or have already completed "The Journey" CDC Course • Member must demonstrate faithful attendance • Individual must be a tithe paying member	• All benefits listed under General Members • Involvement in church evangelism • Members will receive a Certificate for completion of "The Journey." • Use of ILCDA facilities for weddings and receptions for all tithing General and Community Members	All General Level Ministries plus... Discipleship Forum • Nursery Volunteers • Life Class Volunteers Stewardship Forum • Admin Support • Social Media Volunteer • Website Maintenance • Coffee Shop Volunteer • Guest Reception Food Service • Kitchen Service Volunteer • Sunday School Snack Service • Funeral Service Support • Graduations Support • Weddings Support • Transportation Support Worship Forum • Duplication Services • Family Bookstore Support • Health Services Support • Lights Volunteer • Media Support • Sound Volunteer

Covenant Members

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Benefits</u>	<u>Ministries You Qualify For</u>
- Member must meet all criteria for General and Community Membership plus..... - Member must have completed "The Journey Class" - All members must be interviewed and approved by one of the Pastoral staff and sign a Covenant of Commitment - Members who transfer from other churches in our fellowship may be exempt after meeting with one of the Pastoral Staff - Individuals must be faithful in attendance and tithing - Members agree with and exemplify all standards of holiness, doctrinal truths and beliefs consistent with the Body of Christ	- All benefits listed General and Community Members - Voting rights at ILCDA business meetings - Opportunity to be involved in all ILCDA Ministries and Evangelism - Members will receive a Certificate of Covenant Membership to be presented in a Sunday morning service - Use of church facilities (gym, and sanctuary) for weddings and receptions for all tithe paying members	All General & Community Ministries plus... Discipleship Forum - Beginner Quizzing Volunteer - Junior Quizzing Volunteer - Senior Quizzing Volunteer - Kids Zone Volunteer - Sunday School Teacher/Assistant - Pre-K and Kindergarten Class - Discovery Class Teacher - Journey Teacher - Jr. & Sr. Youth Volunteers Fellowship Forum - Life Leader/Assistant Missions Forum - Hospital/Shut In Ministry - Refresh Ladies Bible Study Volunteer - Visitor Follow-Up Volunteers Stewardship Forum - Baby Dedication Volunteers Worship Forum - Baptism Team - Prayer Partners – Altar Workers - Greeting Team – Hostess & Ushers - Parking Attendant Volunteer - Security Team - Guest Reception Volunteer - Mass Choir - Praise Band - Praise Team