

Discovering



Raleigh Road

BAPTIST CHURCH



Membership Workbook

(rev Feb 2014)

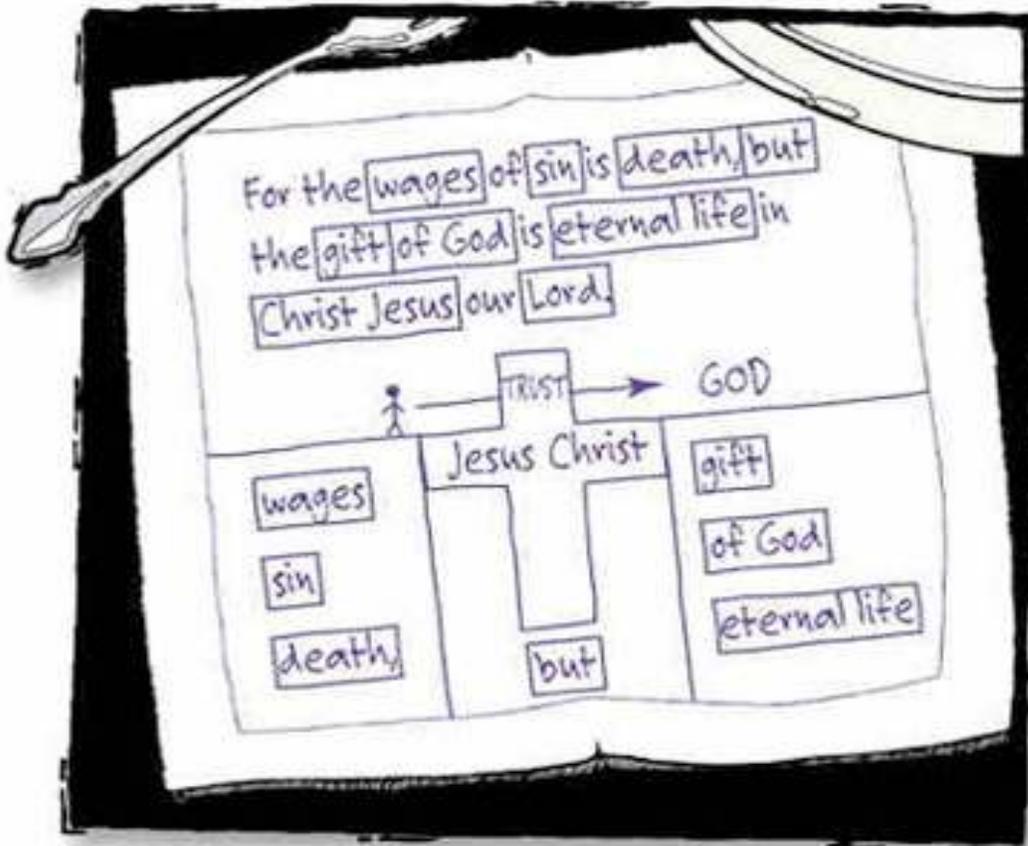
Discovering Raleigh Road

Goals for this class

- To help you understand what _____ desires for your life.
 - To show how Raleigh Road fits into God's _____ for your life.
 - To explain how to begin your _____ at Raleigh Road.
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Part 1 - What God desires for your life: To become a part of His family by following Jesus Christ

Following Jesus Christ begins when you _____ and
_____ in the good news about Him.



Following Jesus Christ continues when you are _____.

What is baptism? Baptism is the public identification of your life with _____. When a person is baptized, he or she is gently dunked into and raised out of the water.

Who should be baptized? Water baptism is intended _____ for the person who has believed in the good news about Jesus Christ and become His disciple (follower).

Why should I be baptized?

- To _____ the command of Christ.

Jesus said to His disciples, *“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all people, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”!* Matthew 28:19

- To _____ that you are a disciple of Christ.

Baptism is a public testimony that you are following Jesus now. You identify with Him. Just as Jesus died, was buried, and was resurrected from the grave, baptism shows that you identify with Him. You have died to an old way of living, buried it, and now you are raised to live a new life.

- To follow the _____ of Christ.

When Jesus began His ministry, He was baptized by John the Baptist. The life Jesus lived is an example of how we should live.

When should I be baptized? As soon as you are _____! In the New Testament, baptisms are never delayed.

How should I be baptized? By _____.

- The word “baptize” in Greek (the original language of the New Testament) literally means to plunge, submerge, or immerse.
- Our union with Christ’s death and resurrection is best expressed through immersion.
- The baptisms in the New Testament were by immersion.

Where should I be baptized? Wherever there is _____.

To understand more of what following Jesus Christ means, we encourage you to get involved in a small group bible study, a men’s mentoring group, or a ladies bible study group at Raleigh Road.

Part 2 - How Raleigh Road fits into God's purpose for your life

Raleigh Road can be your spiritual _____.

Biblical Image #1: Raleigh Road is a _____.

- Key principle: *"You are a member of God's family."* Ephesians 2:19 (NCV)
All of you should be in agreement, understanding each other, loving each other as family, being kind and humble.! 1 Peter 3:8 (NCV)
- God _____ you to be a member of a church family.

A Christian without a church family is an orphan.

- Because we are a family, we try to operate on the basis of _____, not rules.
Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity. 1 Tim 5:1-2 (ESV)

Biblical Image #2: Raleigh Road is a _____.

- *And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship...* Acts 2:24 (ESV)
- The word "fellowship" means that we have a bond of common purpose and devotion that joins us to Christ and one another.
- Because we are a fellowship, we value _____ and _____.

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Eph 4:3 (NIV)
So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. Romans 14:19 (ESV)

ANY attitude that causes harm to the fellowship of God's family is sin.
See 1 Corinthians 1:10, 1 Corinthians 11:17-18, and 2 Timothy 2:23-24.

At Raleigh Road, unity is promoted because we have a biblical structure.

Raleigh Road is an Overseer-led church. Since voting tends to create conflict, it is kept to a minimum. We only vote on _____ matters:

- 1) To call or dismiss the Senior Pastor
- 2) Approve the call or dismissal of other ministerial staff members based on the recommendations of the Personnel Committee.
- 3) To approve the Annual Church Budget
- 4) Selection of Overseers
- 5) Selection of Deacons
- 6) To approve the Nominating Ministry recommendations

- 7) To change the Constitution and By-laws
- 8) To buy, sell, or expand real property
- 9) To incur debt
- 10) To start a new mission or church plant
- 11) To elect messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, and South Roanoke Baptist Association.

The Church hosts quarterly business meetings, referred to as COMPASS Mtgs, on the second or third Wednesday in March, June, September, and December.

Biblical Image #3: Raleigh Road is a _____.

- Raleigh Road is a body, not a business! We are an organism, not an organization! In an organization, “maintenance” becomes the focus. But in an organism, “ministry” is the focus.

At Raleigh Road, we have a simple structure so we can maximize ministry and minimize maintenance.

- Every part of a human body is important and serves a purpose. Likewise, every member of Christ’s Body at Raleigh Road is important serves God in a unique way.

Now as we have many part in one body, and all the parts do not have the same function, in the same way we who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another. According to the grace given to us, we have different gifts.
Romans 12:4-6 (HCSB)

- Because we are a body, we try to function on the basis of _____ and talents, not elected positions. Therefore, we seek to discover how God has gifted His people and assist them to serve Him.

We believe that when you are able to serve God according to your gift and calling, you will have more joy, serve more passionately, and be more _____.

- How does Raleigh Road help you discover your spiritual gift and begin to serve God? Through our PASTOR(S) and OVERSEERS.

[Jesus Christ] personally gave some to be...pastors and teachers, for the training of the saints in the work of ministry. ! Ephesians 4:11-12 (HCSB)

At Raleigh Road, all members are _____, and all elders are _____.

Biblical Image #4: Raleigh Road is a _____.

- This is Jesus’ favorite description of the church.
See John 10:1-30; Matthew 25:33; Matthew 26:31.

- Because we are a flock, we are cared for and led by _____.

Jesus said, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."! John 21:16 (NCV)

- In the New Testament, three different words are used to refer to the same church leaders: _____ and _____.

The elders who are among you I exhort... Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers... 1 Peter 5:1-2 (NKJV)

Paul...called for the elders of the church. And when they came to him, he said to them... "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock that the Holy Spirit has appointed you to as overseers, to shepherd the church of God..." Acts 20:17-18, 28 (HCSB)

- Like the churches in the New Testament, Raleigh Road has a plurality of godly men who are called to serve as the church's overseers. They provide for doctrine, direction and discipline for the spiritual life of the church.

Raleigh Road can teach you the biblical _____ needed for life.

In our essential beliefs, we have unity.
In non-essential beliefs, we have liberty.
In all our beliefs, we show charity.

Our comprehensive statement of faith is The Baptist Faith and Message, which is included at the back of this workbook. The most essential beliefs that we embrace are listed below:

- God _____.

We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) and has revealed himself in the Bible.

Deut. 6:4; 1 Cor. 8:4; Psalm 90:2; 1 Tim 1:17; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14

- The _____ is God's Word.

We believe The Bible is God's written revelation to people, divinely given through human authors who were inspired by the Holy Spirit. It is entirely true. The Bible is totally sufficient and completely authoritative for matters of life and faith. The goal of God's Word is the restoration of humanity into His image.

2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Tim. 3:16; Rev. 22:18-19; John 17:17; Matt. 5:17-18

- People are God's _____.

God created people in His image for His glory. They are the crowning work of His creation. Yet every person has willfully disobeyed God—an act known as sin—thus inheriting both physical and spiritual death and the need for salvation. All human beings are born with a sin nature and into an environment inclined toward sin. Only by the grace of God through Jesus Christ can they experience salvation.

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." Gen 1:26 (ESV)

- Jesus is God and _____

We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ; in His virgin birth; in His sinless life; in His miracles; in His vicarious, substitutionary, and atoning death through His shed blood; in His bodily resurrection; in His ascension to the right hand of the Father; and in His personal return in power and glory.

John 1:1; Col. 2:9; Matt. 1:23; Heb. 4:15; Acts 2:22-23; 1 Peter 3:18;
1 John 1:7; 1 Cor. 15:4; Mark 16:19; Heb. 7:25; Matt. 24:30

- The Holy Spirit is God and _____.

We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life. The Holy Spirit is supernatural and sovereign, baptizing all believers into the Body of Christ. He lives within all Christians beginning at the moment of salvation and then empowers them for bold witness and effective service as they yield to Him. The Holy Spirit convicts individuals of sin, uses God's Word to mature believers into Christ likeness, and secures them until Christ returns.

Acts 1:8; 1 Cor. 2:10-11; 1 Cor. 6:19; Eph. 5:18; Gal. 5:16, 22-23; John 14:16-17

- Salvation is by _____ alone.

We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful people, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential. All human beings are born with a sin nature, separated from God, and in need of a Savior. That salvation comes only through a faith relationship with Jesus Christ, the Savior, as a person repents of sin and receives Christ's forgiveness and eternal life. Salvation is instantaneous and accomplished solely by the power of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God. This salvation is wholly of God by grace on the basis of the shed blood of Jesus Christ and not on the basis of human works. All the redeemed are secure in Christ forever.

Rom. 3:23; Rom 6:23; Isa. 59:2; Eph. 2:1-10; John 3:1-18

- The Church is God's plan for making _____.

The Holy Spirit immediately places all people who put their faith in Jesus Christ into one united spiritual body, the Church, of which Christ is the head. The primary expression of the Church on earth is in autonomous local congregations of baptized believers. The purpose of the Church is to glorify God by taking the gospel to the entire world and by building its members in Christ likeness through the instruction of God's Word, fellowship, service, worship, and prayer. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 2:42-47; John 17:20-23; Eph. 4:3-6; 1 Cor. 12:12-27; Rev. 7:9-10

- The _____ is in God's hands.

God is actively involved in our lives and our future. Through His prophets, God announced His plans for the future redemption of His people through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son. With the call of the disciples, God prepared the way for the future of His Church. In scripture, God promised that Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in

glory to the earth to resurrect and judge the saved and unsaved. As the all-knowing and all-powerful Creator and Judge, God can and should be trusted today, and with our future.

Matt. 25:31-46; Matt. 13:36-43; Luke 16:22-23; Heb 9:27-28; Rev. 20:11-21:4

Raleigh Road has a strategy that can fit your life.

- **We keep things _____.**

Numerous churches have so many activities that their most active members never truly engage people in the real world. But you won't find an over-programmed church--or life--here! We believe church should equip you to fulfill God's mission: to help people in your life follow Christ. We have **two** essential activities that benefit every member of Raleigh Road: celebratory worship together and Life Groups.

- **We keep things _____.**

Our life and fellowship together is not determined by culture, business practices, governmental principles, or denominational traditions, but by the Bible.

God's Word is central to everything we do. Therefore, we seek to understand it, study it, and apply it to our lives. If we ever find that our beliefs or practices do not match what the Bible says, we are willing to change!

- **We keep things _____.**

We relate to those whom God misses most, and we understand the challenges that Christ followers have in living for Him. We're on the same journey as you!

Raleigh Road's mission is to see God's _____ fulfilled in your life.

We are committed to do that by:

Building Gospel-Centered Families
who make a Kingdom-Extending Difference.

1. Because the _____ is essential.

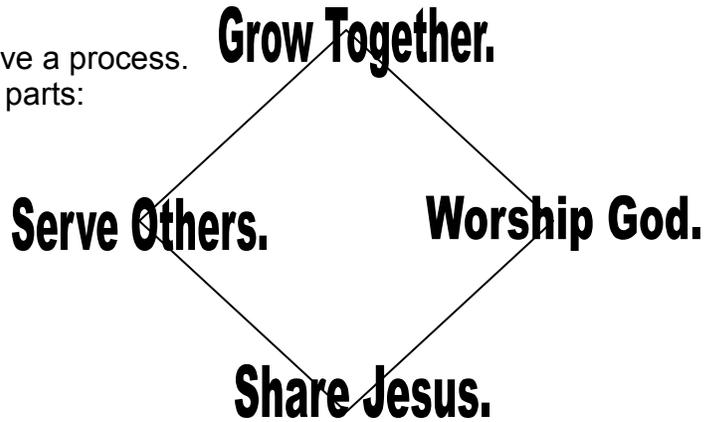
"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." Rom 1:16-17

2. Because we are in _____ (i.e. Building).

"being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" Phil 1:6

“because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.”
 Heb 10:14

We are “in process” and we have a process.
 Our process involves _____ parts:



3. Because God wants his _____ to grow.

"Under Christ's control, the whole Body is nourished ... and grows as God wants it to grow." Col. 2:19 (GN)

"(Jesus said) I will build My church." Matt. 16:18

4. Because God loves to work through _____.

“And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” Gen 12:2-3

Part 3 - Beginning Your Journey at Raleigh Road

“Why should I become a member?”

There are benefits you receive when you become a member of Raleigh Road:

- You will be part of a spiritual family that will _____ you.
- You will receive spiritual _____ from a team of pastors and deacons.
- You will be _____ in following Jesus and helping others follow Him.
- You will be a part of something _____ than yourself: a discipleship movement.
- You can rest in knowing that you are obedient to God in the New Testament’s numerous
 “ _____ commands.

The difference between “attenders” and “members” can be summed up in one word:

“What is expected of me as a member?”

We ask our members to _____ to live as God directs every Christian to do through His Word. Specifically, we encourage every member to:

- _____ faithfully together with God’s family (Luke 4:16; Mark 1:21).
- Grow closer to God each day through _____ and Bible _____ (Luke 11:1-13; Matthew 4:23; Ephesians 6:18).
- Participate in one of our _____ (Acts 2:46-47; 2 Tim 2:2; Heb 10:24-25).
- _____ in ministry (Micah 6:8; Luke 4:16-21; Romans 12:6-8).
- Help people _____ Jesus through relationships with a disciple-making purpose (Matthew 9:11; Matthew 28:16-20).
- _____ faithfully and generously (Matthew 25:14-30; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15).
- _____ the Body of Christ by loving one another, submitting to the church’s leaders, and engaging in God-honoring conversations (1 Thess 4:9; Heb 13:7; Eph 4:31-32).

“How do I become a member?”

- You must _____ Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and you must be _____ by immersion after receiving Him.
- You have just completed the Discovering Raleigh Road class!
- You must _____ with us to live according to the biblical expectations we just discussed.

What’s next?

- Sign the **MEMBERSHIP REQUEST FORM**
- Let us know (on the form) if you are a member of another church. We’ll send them a letter indicating you have united with Raleigh Road in membership.
- You will receive a letter from us stating the date of your membership and the identity of your deacon (or that one will be assigned within the month).
- You will be contacted by the leader(s) of the ministries you indicate you would like to serve in.

Raleigh Road Membership Request

Having:

- Received Christ as Lord and Savior and been baptized by immersion since receiving Him;
- And being in agreement with Raleigh Road’s beliefs, strategy, and mission;

I now believe the Holy Spirit is leading me to be a part of the Raleigh Road family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to:

- Worship faithfully together with God’s family (Luke 4:16; Mark 1:21).
- Grow closer to God each day through prayer and Bible reading (Luke 11:1-13; Matthew 14:23; Ephesians 6:18).
- Participate regularly in one of our LifeGroups (Acts 2:46-47; 2 Timothy 2:2; Hebrews 10:24-25).
- Serve in ministry (Micah 6:8; Luke 4:16-21; Romans 12:6-8).
- Help people follow Jesus through relationships with a disciple-making purpose (Matthew 9:11; Matthew 28:16-20).
- Give faithfully and generously (Matthew 25:14-30; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15).
- Edify the Body of Christ by loving one another, submitting to the church’s leaders, and engaging in God-honoring conversations (1 Thessalonians 4:9; Hebrews 13:7; Ephesians 4:31-32).

Signature _____ Date _____

How would you like to serve at Raleigh Road? Our Leader serving that ministry will contact you:

- Nursery
 Children’s
 Check-In Team
 Youth
 Worship Team
 Technology Team
 Greeter
 Prayer
 Homeless Ministry
 Coffee Bar
 Deaf Ministry
 Outreach Events
 Lawn Care
 Life Safety Team
 Other: _____

Printed Name _____ DOB _____

Preferred Phone _____ Cell Home Business

Secondary Phone _____ Cell Home Business

Address _____

Email _____

Member of another church?: _____

I have been baptized by immersion Yes No