

# New Member Introduction



# W elcome to the family!

---

Dear Brother or Sister in Christ,

We are excited that you desire to become a member of Eastlake Baptist Church! We are looking forward to getting to know you better as we seek to glorify our God the best we can.

The purpose of this study is to introduce you to Eastlake Baptist Church—our purpose, our beliefs, and our procedures. We believe that you will love this church just as the rest of us do.

If you are a mature Christian who is joining us from another body of believers, we hope that you will find this study a fresh review of what you have already know. If you are a new believer, our prayer is that this study will be the first step in helping you to become a true follower of Jesus Christ.

Eastlake Baptist Church exists to glorify God by developing disciples who are trained, edifying, accountable, and reproducing. We hope that you will learn much from this study that will help you get even more of a desire to study God's Word.

May God bless you as you work toward becoming a better disciple of Jesus Christ!

*Your Family at Eastlake Baptist Church*

Eastlake Baptist Church  
7121 East Lincoln Highway  
Crown Point, IN 46307  
[www.eastlakebaptist.net](http://www.eastlakebaptist.net)



**Table of Contents**

SECTION 1 – What is Eastlake Baptist Church all about? ..... 3

SECTION 2 – Becoming a Disciple of Jesus Christ ..... 8

SECTION 3 – The Bible ..... 13

SECTION 4 – What We Believe ..... 21

SECTION 5 – The Church ..... 28

SECTION 6 – Your Duties as Member of Eastlake ..... 31

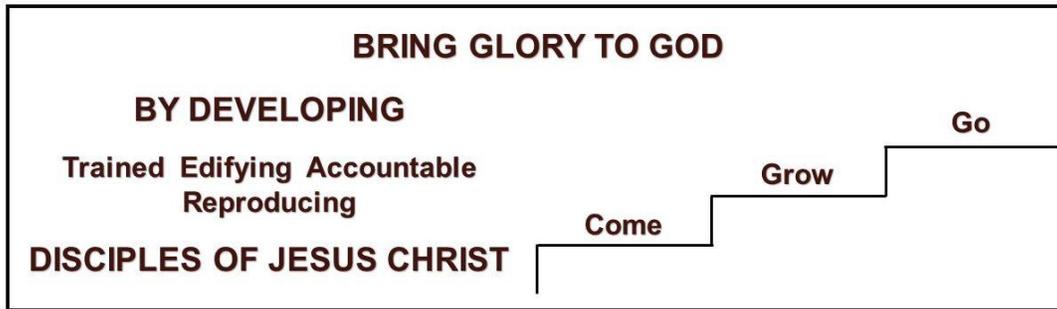
*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;*  
(1 Peter 3:15)

## SECTION 1 – What is Eastlake Baptist Church all about?

---

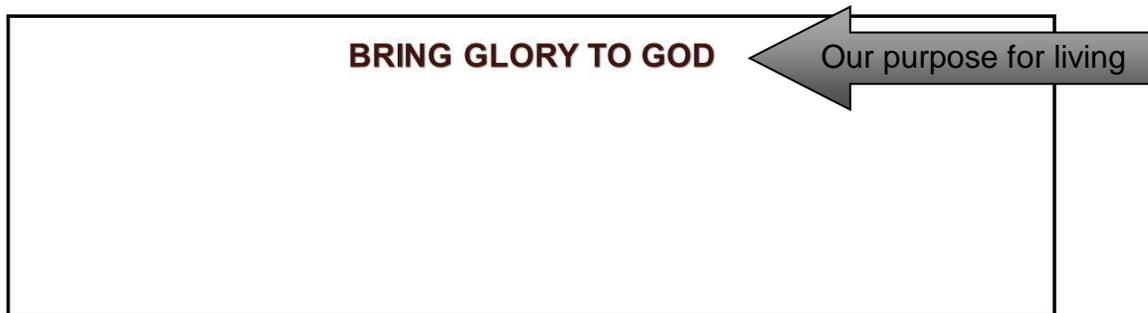
*The mission of Eastlake Baptist Church is to bring glory to God by developing trained, edifying, accountable, and reproducing disciples of Jesus Christ.*

We like to picture it like this:



This is our mission statement. But exactly what does it mean? Let's look at it one section at a time.

***“Bring glory to God” – God’s overall purpose in creation***



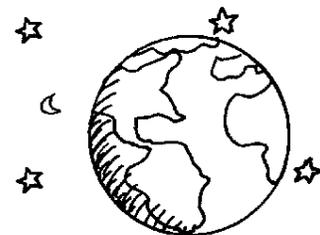
*You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.*

(Revelation 4:11)

According to Revelation 4:11, what is the purpose of creation? \_\_\_\_\_

---

If the whole creation was designed to give God glory, then this obviously must be the purpose of our church. Therefore, our overall goal is to “bring glory to God.”



Now for the next question: How do we best accomplish this task?

***“By developing disciples of Jesus Christ”***



Jesus gave us specific instructions right before He left the earth:

*Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*  
(Matthew 28:19-20)

Making disciples refers to much more than just telling someone what they should know about Jesus. The idea is to convince them to become true followers of Him in every way.

What will we look like when we become true disciples of Jesus Christ?

***“Trained, edifying, accountable, and reproducing”***



We want to be disciples who are trained, edifying, accountable, and reproducing.

*And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ . . .*  
(Ephesians 4:11-12)



**Trained** – Part of Jesus’ final command to His disciples was to teach others to “observe all things that I have commanded you.” As we teach others truths about God and how to do the ministry, the saints are equipped and God’s work can be expanded and reproduced.

The term “equipping” in Ephesians 4:12 means “completely furnished.” When we train others, we furnish them with what they need to do God’s work.

Jesus, as our example, spent most of His ministry with His twelve disciples, training them to be able to carry on the ministry after He left.

**Edifying** – To edify means to “build up.” We edify each other by helping through difficult times and encouraging each other to obey God.

*“A loving and supportive environment builds emotional equity that acts as a cushion during the bumps and turbulence of ministry.”*  
-Bill Hull

**Accountable** – Most people find it easier to do what is right when someone is watching them. We believe in holding each other accountable for serving God. Occasionally the church may have to discipline a member for public sin, but the purpose is always restoration of the fallen one.

*Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.*  
(Galatians 6:1)

**Reproducing** – We have successfully developed a disciple when he can bring others to Christ and train them in the ministry.

How did Jesus model the need for training others? \_\_\_\_\_

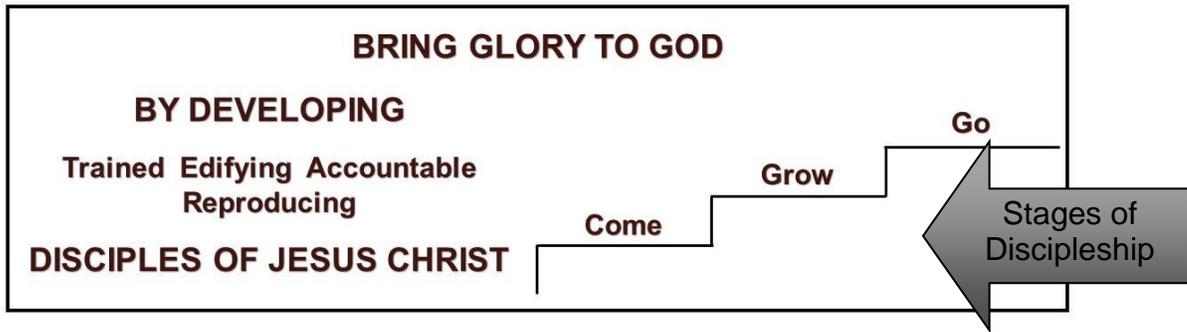
\_\_\_\_\_

What does it mean to “edify?” \_\_\_\_\_

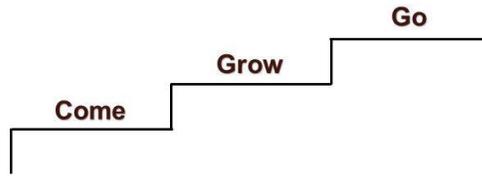
What are some ways we can edify others? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**The stages of discipleship**



Becoming a reproducing disciple of Jesus Christ is actually a three-step process. Let's look at these steps in a little more detail.

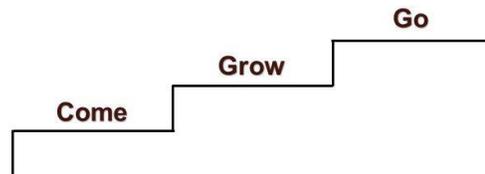


**STAGE 1: "COME" (Salvation)**

*Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote--Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "**Come and see.**"*

(John 1:45-46)

A person who is at stage 1 is contemplating whether or not to take the first step in becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ. This step is most important and will be discussed more fully in the next section.



**STAGE 2: "GROW"**

*But **grow in grace and knowledge** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...*

(II Peter 3:18)

After salvation, spiritual growth is necessary along with further knowledge of the Bible. This is so important because many erroneous teachings are available. If you do not know what to believe, you can be led to believe anything.



### STAGE 3: "GO"

*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit . . .*

(Matthew 28:19)



Ultimately, we endeavor to train disciples so they are ready to go out and make other disciples. Stage 3 is focused upon providing training in specific areas to help disciples as they go out and minister to others.

A disciple of Jesus Christ will never grow out of either the "grow" or "go" stages. There is always more to learn about God and how to serve Him!

What is the first step in becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

Why is it important to grow in knowledge? \_\_\_\_\_

In your own words, describe the purpose of Eastlake Baptist Church:

---

---

---

Congratulations!

You have made it through the first section of our New Member Bible study. We hope you now have a clear understanding of the purpose of Eastlake Baptist Church.

The remainder of this study is aimed at helping you to develop further as a disciple of Jesus Christ.



## SECTION 2 – Becoming a Disciple of Jesus Christ

Making disciples means that when a person puts his trust in Jesus Christ, we don't want to leave him alone to try to figure out how to live like a Christian. Our goal is to help him grow to the point where he can bring others to the Lord and train them to live for Him.



The first step in becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ is to become “saved.” You may be familiar with this term, or it may be new to you. What does it mean to be saved? Saved from what? We need to understand a few things first about the relationship of God and man.

By way of review, what is the ultimate purpose of all of Creation? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you think that man has fulfilled this purpose? \_\_\_\_\_

This verse indicates that man has really made a mess out of what God has created:

*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.  
(Romans 3:23)*

Who has sinned? \_\_\_\_\_

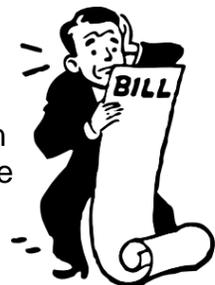


Sin, by the way, is defined as “missing the mark.” For example, an archer may get close to the bull’s eye, but if he misses it, he has “sinned.” He has fallen short of perfection. God requires perfection, but man has missed the mark. That’s what Romans 3:23 means by “...fall short of the glory of God”.

God, because He is righteous and holy, can't just sit by without judging the sin of man.

*In your Bible, read Romans 6:23.*

“Wages” means payment. When you go to work, you receive wages. You also receive wages from your sin. However, the wages you receive from sin turns out to be a bill – you are required to pay for the sins that you have done.



What are the wages of sin? \_\_\_\_\_

Sin requires death. This death includes physical death, but it goes far beyond that. It ultimately refers to spiritual death—separation from God in Hell, which is a place of torment. This is what we deserve.

BUT, according to Romans 6:23, God gives a gift. What is it?

Here's a question to consider – If God requires death as a payment for sin, how can He overlook it and offer life?

*In your Bible, read Romans 5:8.*



What did Jesus do for us?

---

God has sentenced you to eternal death because of your sin. However, Jesus experienced death in your place. God was willing to accept Jesus' death instead of yours. Therefore, you can be "saved" from the punishment for sin.

Now, here's another question - does this mean that everyone will escape Hell and be in Heaven?

*In your Bible, read John 3:16.*

What does one have to do to have everlasting life?

---

To believe is to trust. Belief in Jesus is trusting that He is the Son of God and can "save" you from the punishment that you deserve because of your sin. Belief in Jesus is understanding that there is no other possible way for God to remove the debt for your sin.

How would you define "believe"?

---

*In your Bible, read I John 5:13.*

Is it possible to know that you are saved? \_\_\_\_\_

If you have made the decision to trust in Jesus Christ alone in order to receive God's forgiveness for your sins, you have been "saved." Many people struggle, though, with wondering whether they can become "unsaved." Let's see what the Bible has to say about this.

*And I will pray the Father,  
and He will give you  
another Helper, that He  
may abide with you  
forever--the Spirit of truth,  
whom the world cannot  
receive, because it  
neither sees Him nor  
knows Him; but you know  
Him, for He dwells with  
you and will be in you. I  
will not leave you  
orphans; I will come to  
you.*

(John 14:16-18)

*And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

(Ephesians 4:30)

When you become saved, you are “sealed” by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. He put His stamp on you and claims you as His own.

For how long are you sealed? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have the Holy Spirit in you now? \_\_\_\_\_

Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_



*In your Bible, read John 10:28-29.*

Who can snatch you out of God’s hand? \_\_\_\_\_

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, **who are kept by the power of God** through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

(1 Peter 1:3-5)



By whose power are you kept saved?  
\_\_\_\_\_

If it is God’s power that saved you and God’s power that keeps you saved, who is able to pull you away from Him?

*For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

(Romans 8:38-39)

No one is greater than God, who holds you in His hand. Therefore, you cannot become “unsaved.” This truth is what we commonly call “eternal security” – that once saved, you are securely a child of God and nothing can ever destroy that reality.

*In your Bible, read II Corinthians 5:17.*

According to this verse, should you act differently now that you are saved? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

*If you love me, keep my commandments.*  
(John 14:15)

How should we show our love to Jesus?

---

*Does this mean you will never sin again?*

Unfortunately, you still live in a physical body that has desires to do wrong. You will sin again. When you do, what should be your response?

*In your Bible, read I John 1:9.*

What should you do when you sin again?

---

---

The Bible refers to salvation as “adoption” into God’s family. When our children disobey, we punish them, but they continue to be our children. God also may punish us, but we continue to be His children. True confession and repentance of sins does not make us “re-saved,” but restores the fellowship that we lost as a result of our disobedience.



### SECTION 3 – The Bible

---

At Eastlake, we believe that the Bible serves as our ultimate authority. The Bible is an amazing book which has stood the test of time and is the source of all our beliefs. In this section, we will discuss what the Bible is in an attempt to gain a better appreciation of it.



#### ***How we got the Bible***

The Bible is actually a collection of writings put together into one book. These books were written over a period of 1,600 years by about 40 different men.

Before the time of Jesus, the Old Testament had already been gathered together as the Jewish Scriptures. By AD 100, the whole New Testament had been written and was slowly gathered together into the one book that we have today.

Most of the Old Testament was written in Hebrew, while some parts were written in Aramaic. Greek was the original language of the New Testament.

The Bible has one central theme, which is the redemption of man which ultimately brings glory to God.

How many different men did God use to write the books of the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

How many years did it take to write the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the central theme of the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

The phrase “given by inspiration of God” literally means “God-breathed.” In a way that we don’t completely understand, God put within the writers the words that He wanted recorded.

*In your Bible, read II Peter 1:20-21.*

What do these verses say about the origin of the Bible?

---

---

We believe in the *plenary* inspiration of the Bible. This means that the Bible as a whole was inspired by God.

We also believe in the *verbal* inspiration of the Bible. This means that the words that were originally written down were exactly the ones God wanted.

So, what is the difference between plenary and verbal inspiration? Simply this – if you believe in only plenary inspiration, you may allow for errors in the Bible. You would believe that although the main idea of the Bible is “breathed out” by God, there may be some words or ideas in it that did not come from God.

Verbal inspiration is the belief that everything in the Bible was originally recorded exactly how God wanted it. Therefore, no one has to decide what to believe, as it is all God’s Word.

Define verbal inspiration: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What is a danger of not believing in verbal inspiration? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*In your Bible, read I Peter 1:23-25.*

What do these verses tell you about the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Why is a correct view of the Bible so important?

Many people today question whether or not there is an absolute truth – that is, a truth that is true for everyone, no matter who they are and where they live. If there was no absolute truth, then every person would have the right to do whatever he wanted—no one would have authority to make rules. Everyday life would be a total catastrophe.

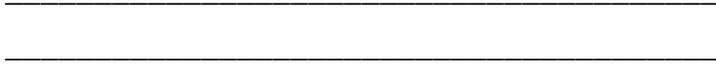
**...thy word is truth.**

**John 17:17**



Jesus, while praying to the Father, said, “Your word is truth” (John 17:17). If the words that come from God are true, then the Bible is also true, as it is the message of God to man. Therefore, we must judge everything according to the Bible.

Use your imagination - what would happen if there were no absolute truth in the universe?  
\_\_\_\_\_



## ***The layout of the Bible***

The Bible is divided into two sections called the Old and New Testaments.

The Old Testament basically covers the time period from Creation to the birth of Jesus. It deals mainly with God's covenants (testaments) to Israel and explains how Israel turned against Him. Many prophets that God sent to warn Israel of coming judgment wrote books that are included in the Old Testament.



The New Testament begins at the birth of Jesus and continues through the end of time. In it is described the new covenant (testament) that Jesus made—that a person can have a relationship with God through belief in Jesus Christ. It also describes the spread of the gospel (news of Jesus Christ) in the early 1<sup>st</sup> century AD.

There are 66 books in the Bible: 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. Most of the chapter and verse divisions were not in the original manuscripts, but were added later to help us reference certain thoughts. This is crucial to know because when studying the Bible, we must always consider the context of a verse, which we do by looking at the surrounding verses and chapters.

What is the main idea of the Old Testament? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is the main idea of the New Testament? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What must you always consider when studying the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think this is important? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Old Testament

## **Pentateuch - Books of the Law (5)**

God gave these books to explain the Old Covenant and set up the Law. They also describe the origin of Israel, God's chosen people. They were written primarily by Moses.

Genesis  
Exodus  
Leviticus  
Numbers  
Deuteronomy

## **Historical Books (12)**

These books describe the early days of Israel.

Joshua  
Judges  
Ruth  
I & II Samuel  
I & II Kings  
I & II Chronicles  
Ezra  
Nehemiah  
Esther

## **Poetic Books (5)**

This section includes songs of Israel as well as other poetic books.

Job  
Psalms  
Proverbs  
Ecclesiastes  
Song of Solomon

## **Major Prophets (5)**

These books are called "major" because they are bigger books, not because they are more important. They were written by God-called prophets who were sent to bring Israel back to God.

Isaiah  
Jeremiah  
Lamentations  
Ezekiel  
Daniel

## **Minor Prophets (12)**

These are shorter books written by the prophets that God sent to Israel.

Hosea  
Joel  
Amos  
Obadiah  
Jonah  
Micah  
Nahum  
Habakkuk  
Zephaniah  
Haggai  
Zechariah  
Malachi

***Total Old Testament Books: 39***

# New Testament

## **Gospels (4)**

Gospel means “good news.” The prophets of the Old Testament had mourned for Israel and prophesied of a Messiah to come to save them. Now the good news is that Jesus had come to be the Messiah.

Matthew  
Mark  
Luke  
John

## **History (1)**

There is one book in this section—Acts. It describes the origin of the church.

Acts

## **Epistles (21)**

Epistles means “letters.” Most were written by the apostle Paul to Gentile churches and primarily teach doctrine.

Romans  
I & II Corinthians  
Galatians  
Ephesians  
Philippians  
Colossians  
I & II Thessalonians  
I & II Timothy  
Titus  
Philemon  
Hebrews  
James  
I & II Peter  
I, II, & III John  
Jude

## **Prophecy (1)**

Revelation is the only book in this section. It is mainly a prophecy of things still to come.

Revelation

***Total New Testament Books: 27***

What does “gospel” mean? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the difference between “major” and “minor” prophets? \_\_\_\_\_

Why are some New Testament books called “epistles?” \_\_\_\_\_

OLD TESTAMENT (39)			NEW TESTAMENT (27)		
<b>Pentateuch – Books of the Law (5)</b>			<b>Gospels (4)</b>		
Genesis	Leviticus	Deuteronomy	Matthew	Luke	
Exodus	Numbers		Mark	John	
<b>Historical Books (12)</b>			<b>Historical Books (1)</b>		
Joshua	II Samuel	II Chronicles	Acts		
Judges	I Kings	Ezra			
Ruth	II Kings	Nehemiah			
I Samuel	I Chronicles	Esther			
<b>Poetic Books (9)</b>			<b>Epistles (21)</b>		
Job	Proverbs	Song of Solomon	Romans	I Thessalonians	James
Psalms	Ecclesiastes		I Corinthians	II Thessalonians	I Peter
			II Corinthians	I Timothy	II Peter
			Galatians	II Timothy	I John
			Ephesians	Titus	II John
			Philippians	Philemon	III John
			Colossians	Hebrews	Jude
<b>Major Prophets (5)</b>			<b>Prophecy (1)</b>		
Isaiah	Lamentations	Daniel	Revelation		
Jeremiah	Ezekiel				
<b>Minor Prophets (12)</b>					
Hosea	Jonah	Zephaniah			
Joel	Micah	Haggai			
Amos	Nahum	Zechariah			
Obadiah	Habakkuk	Malachi			

### ***The Division of Old and New Testaments***

The division of the Old Covenant and New Covenant happened at the death of Jesus. In the Old Testament, God established His covenant with Israel, which was centered around first the Tabernacle, then the Temple. God’s presence rested in the “Holy of Holies,” which was a room in the Tabernacle that common man was forbidden to enter. Only select priests were allowed into the presence of God.

However, when Jesus died on the cross, the curtain that separated this holy place from the rest of the Temple was split in two. This began the new covenant, in which every man can enter the presence of God.



*And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and breathed His last. Then the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.*

(Mark 15:37-38)

Part of the old covenant was the Law that God gave to Israel. This Law, which is summed up in the Ten Commandments, showed man how a holy God wants him to live. The laws were very rigid and impossible to live up to completely.

*In your Bible, read Galatians 3:24.*

To what is the Law compared? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What was the purpose of the Law? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The Law showed us that we are totally unfit to be holy in God's eyes ourselves, so we needed a Savior.

Forgiveness of sin is different today. Under the Law, the people had to go to a human priest who would make a sacrifice so God could overlook their sins. Today we have Jesus Christ as our priest, who offered Himself as the final sacrifice which God accepted. If we put our complete trust in Him, God forgives our sins. That is called grace.

In the Old Testament, there were rules of Law. In the New Testament, God gives us grace, allowing us salvation through belief in Jesus Christ.

OLD TESTAMENT	NEW TESTAMENT
LAW	GRACE

*My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*

(1 John 2:1)

What job does Jesus fill today? \_\_\_\_\_

An "advocate" is an intercessor, or a mediator. Although we are guilty of sin, Jesus intercedes to the Father on our behalf. That is the beauty of the grace in the New Testament.

*Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services. But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance; the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing. It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience--concerned only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation. But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.*

(Hebrews 9:6-12)

## SECTION 4 – What We Believe

---

Does it really matter what we believe?

Yes, for two reasons. First, there is much false teaching in the world, and if we don't know what we believe we can be led to believe anything.

Second, what we believe will determine what we do. If we want to live in a way that glorifies God, we need to know what He wants us to know.

Why is it important to know what we believe?

---

---



We cannot thoroughly exhaust all of our beliefs in this lesson, but we will answer three basic questions: Who is God? Who is Jesus? Who are we?

### **WHO IS GOD?**

The term “theology” comes from the Greek word *theos*, which means “God.” The Bible assumes the existence of God. While some people refuse to believe in God because they can't see Him, it also takes faith to believe there is *no* God.

Here are some basic truths about God:

- ➔ God is a spirit: He cannot be perceived by our physical senses.

*God is Spirit: and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.*  
(John 4:24)

- ➔ God is eternal: He has no beginning and no ending.

*Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.*  
(Psalms 90:2)

When did God begin to exist? According to the Bible, He has always existed and always will exist.

- ➔ God is omnipresent: He is everywhere at every time. He has no physical limitations.

*“Can anyone hide himself in secret places, so I shall not see him?” says the LORD; “Do not I fill heaven and earth?” says the LORD.*  
(Jeremiah 23:24)

- ➔ God is omniscient: He is all-knowing. You cannot go any place where God cannot see you.

*The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.*  
(Proverbs 15:3)

- ➔ God is omnipotent: He has unlimited power. There is nothing He cannot do.

*Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.*  
(Genesis 18:14)

- ➔ God is immutable: He cannot change.

*For I am the LORD, I do not change: therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.*  
(Malachi 3:6)

- ➔ God is transcendent – He is above and beyond creation. The earth is not God, and God is not the earth, nor is He in it. He created it and controls it.

*For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy...*  
(Isaiah 57:15a)

- ➔ God is imminent: He is close to His creation. He didn't create the universe then let it run on its own. He is very active in our lives.

*...I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.*  
(Isaiah 57:15b)

- ➔ God is love: He not only *has* love; He *is* love. God has shown His love to us in that He gave His Son. That is true, self-sacrificing love.

*He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*  
(1 John 4:8)

- ➔ God is a trinity: He is one God who exists eternally in three Persons. These persons are God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit.

*In your Bible, read Matthew 3:16-17.*



All three members of the Trinity were present at the baptism of Jesus. Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit rested on Him, and the Father spoke from Heaven.

Who are the three members of the Trinity?

---

---

---

How are some ways that what you know about God may affect how you live?

---

---

---

---

---

---

### **THE FATHER IS GOD**

*To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from **God our Father**, and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

*(Romans 1:7)*

### **THE SON IS GOD**

*But to the Son He says, “Your throne, **O God**, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.*

*(Hebrews 1:8)*

### **THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD**

*But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to **lie to the Holy Spirit** and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? **You have not lied to men but to God.**”*

*(Acts 5:3-4)*

## WHO IS JESUS?

The basis of everything we believe is that Jesus is the Son of God and that He died, was buried, and rose again. While many people in the world are religious and attempt to serve God, only those who believe in Jesus Christ can be accepted by Him.

*Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.*  
(2 John 1:9)

It is important to remember that the word “Christ” isn’t a name, but a title. It means “Anointed” or “Messiah.” Throughout the Old Testament, the Jews anticipated an “Anointed One” to come from God and give peace to their nation. Jesus came and fulfilled all the prophecies of the Messiah; however, His people rejected Him.

What does the title “Christ” mean? \_\_\_\_\_

John gave us some very important information about Jesus in the book of John. Let’s look at what he says.

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*

(John 1:1-3)

In these verses we see four very important descriptions of the one John describes as the “Word.”

- 1) He was in the beginning
- 2) He was with God
- 3) He was God
- 4) He made all things

When did the “Word” begin to exist? \_\_\_\_\_

Now, let’s skip down a few more verses in this chapter.

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.'"*

(John 1:14-15)

Here we find another interesting fact about the “Word”—He was made flesh and lived on the earth.

Who is this “Word?” Who could this one be who existed since the beginning, was God, and made all things? John clearly states a few verses later the identity of the “Word.”

*The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.'"*

*(John 1:29-30)*

Jesus is the Word, no question about it. Therefore, all the attributes that John applied to the Word are actually attributes of Jesus. Let's review them:

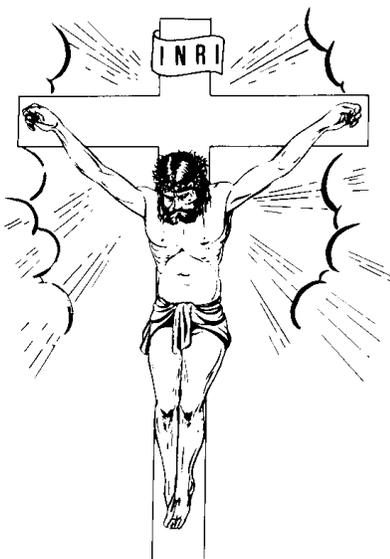
- 1) Jesus was in the beginning
- 2) Jesus was with God
- 3) Jesus was God
- 4) Jesus made all things
- 5) Jesus became flesh and lived on the earth

Why would John use the term "Word" to describe Jesus? One of the reasons Jesus came was to bring the message of forgiveness to humans. As a messenger, He is referred to as a "Word."

In your own words, describe the reason John referred to Jesus as the "Word."

---

---



So, why did Jesus become a man? In order for God to be able to accept man into His presence, a man had to take the punishment that all men deserved. This man had to be perfect or he would be first faced with the impossible task of paying for his own sin.

Jesus, as both God and man, took all of humanity's sin on Himself. God accepted His payment of death and offered righteousness to man.

*For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

*(2 Corinthians 5:21)*

Did Jesus ever sin? \_\_\_\_\_

*In your Bible, read Romans 1:3-4.*

The question of who Jesus was is extremely important. In Romans 1:3-4, we see that Jesus was "made" of the seed of David—He was born as a descendant of David, one of the

greatest kings of Israel.

We also see that He was “declared” to be the Son of God. He never “became” the Son of God—He was the Son of God since the beginning. In other words, His resurrection proved who He was. The eternal Son of God became a man so He could live on the earth.

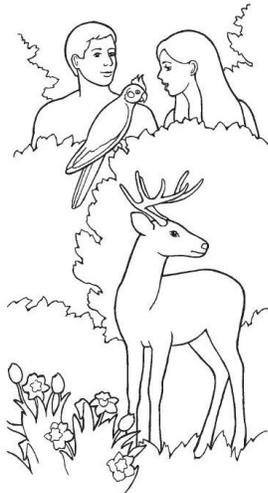
What was Jesus *made* to be? \_\_\_\_\_

What was Jesus *declared* to be? \_\_\_\_\_

What event proved that Jesus was in fact the Son of God?  
\_\_\_\_\_



### **WHO ARE WE?**



One of the most important questions that many people ask is “Why are we here?” To understand why we are here, we need to understand how we got here in the first place.

*Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

(Genesis 1:26-27)

The Bible makes it clear that man was created as a perfect being. However, this is obviously not the case today. What happened?

*In your Bible, read Genesis 3:1-6.*

Adam and Eve, the first humans, disobeyed God. This introduction of sin caused a disruption in their relationship with God. While God had originally designed humans to be without sin, their rebellion against God caused them to fall.

Because Jesus Christ had no sin, He was able to offer Himself as the payment that God required in order to forgive people.

*For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.*

*(Romans 5:19)*

Why was Jesus able to make the payment for our sins? \_\_\_\_\_

## **SECTION 5 – The Church**

Everyone knows about the church, but many think that it is just a place to go on Sunday to “get religion.” The true church is actually much more than that.

In the writing of the New Testament, the Greek word used for church is *ekklesia*, which means “a called-out assembly.”

*In your Bible, read I Corinthians 12:23-27.*



In these verses, the Apostle Paul is writing to the church in Corinth. What does he call them? \_\_\_\_\_

Just as the different parts of your physical body work together, the members of the church should work together. God has given each of us different personalities, talents, and desires, and He expects us to use them in His service.

As a reminder, what exactly is it that the church is supposed to be doing? Let's look again at what we know as “the Great Commission.”

*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*

*(Matthew 28:19-20)*

These are the last words of Jesus to His disciples before He left the earth after His resurrection. He passed along a job to the disciples, which in turn is passed on to all who would later believe in Jesus Christ (the Church).

What are the three jobs Jesus gave to His people?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership in a local church**

Here at Eastlake, we keep a membership list. A member is allowed to vote in business meetings and freely serve in the church.

To be a member of Eastlake Baptist Church, you must have put your faith in Jesus Christ as the only means of salvation from sin. Also, you must be baptized by immersion, as this is given in the New Testament as the first step of obedience to God. We also require that all members agree to live according our statement of faith and constitution.

What are the three requirements for membership at Eastlake Baptist Church?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_



When you finish this course, you will have the opportunity to come before the church after any service to present yourself for membership.

### Offices of the Church

While there are many jobs to be done in the church, there are only two official positions given in the Bible: pastor and deacon.

#### ➤ **Pastor**

The pastor is also referred to in the New Testament as a “bishop” or “elder.” He is the leader of the congregation and is charged with caring for the spiritual welfare of the people.



*Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly . . .*

*(1 Peter 5:2)*

What are the two jobs given in this verse for the pastor?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

#### ➤ **Deacon**

The other biblical position in the church is the deacon. The word deacon literally means “servant.” The job of the deacon is to help take care of the physical needs of the people in the church.

What does the word “deacon” mean? \_\_\_\_\_

*In your Bible, read Acts 6:1-7*

We believe these men to be the first deacons. What was their role in the church?

\_\_\_\_\_

At Eastlake, each family is assigned a deacon. When you have a need, you can let your deacon know about it so he can find a way to help you.

## Ordinances

In the church, an ordinance is a “practice” or “ceremony.” In the Bible, God has given the Church two ordinances: baptism and communion.

### ➤ **Baptism**

The word “baptize” literally means “immerse” or “submerge.” It is the same word that was used in the Greek language to describe putting a dirty dish under the water to clean it. The purpose of baptism is identification with Jesus Christ—you are showing the world that you follow Him.

By being immersed under the water, you show your belief that Jesus died, and being raised from the water shows that you believe that Jesus was also raised from the dead. Baptism is not required to be saved, but it was the first step of obedience that believers in Jesus Christ took when they were saved. You can read about Jesus’ baptism in Matthew 3:13-17.



What does the word “baptize” mean? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have to be baptized to go to Heaven? \_\_\_\_\_

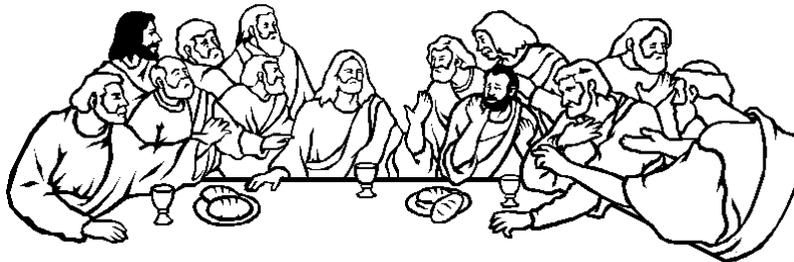
### ➤ **Communion**

Communion is also called the Lord’s Supper. When we take part in it, we remember how Jesus gave up His body in death to pay for our sins.

*In your Bible, read I Corinthians 11:23-30.*

The bread is a picture of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus.

The cup is a picture of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus.



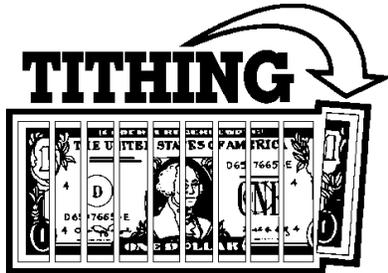
## SECTION 6 – Your Duties as a Member of Eastlake

Being a member at Eastlake is both a privilege and a responsibility. We expect every member to actively contribute to the ministry. Not only is God glorified when we all do our part, but it makes it easier for everyone!

Here are some expectations of all Eastlake members:

### **Tithe**

The word “tithe” literally means “tenth.” In the Old Testament, God commanded His people, the Israelites, to give a tenth of their profit to Him (Leviticus 27:30). There are also many examples in the New Testament of giving. Anything that we give above a tenth of our income is generally known as an “offering.” It makes sense to give more than our tithes to God—especially considering all He has done for us!



What does “tithe” mean? \_\_\_\_\_

*For more passages on giving, see I Corinthians 9:13-14, II Kings 22:3-5, and Deuteronomy 14:28.*

Here at Eastlake, we take up two major offerings every year that go directly to missions. Around Christmas we give to the Lottie Moon offering which supports international missions, and around Easter we give to the Annie Armstrong offering, which supports missions endeavors in North America.

Read these verses to get an idea how God feels about His people giving to Him.

*Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed me. But you say, “In what way have we robbed You?” In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house, and try me now in this, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.*

*(Malachi 3:8-10)*

### **Faithfully meet together**

One of the blessings of being a Christian is having a group of other believers available for fellowship. While this is a great benefit, some neglect to take part causing them to lose their excitement for the things of God.

*Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*

*(Hebrews 10:25)*

What are we commanded to do that some have forsaken? \_\_\_\_\_

---

Assembling together is not only a command; it is a privilege. When we meet as a church we have an opportunity to come out of the world and enjoy fellowship with others who are also believers in Jesus Christ.



At Eastlake, we believe that fellowship with other believers is extremely important. If you start to neglect this area of your life, you will stop growing in Christian maturity.

Every member of Eastlake should be involved in a Connection Group. Our Connection Groups meet on Sunday mornings at 9:15. These groups are not an add-on to your regular attendance, but the front door to the church. They provide the connection you need that goes beyond corporate worship.

In Connection Groups, you will:

- Share requests and pray for each other
- Develop close relationships with a small group of people
- Study the Bible under the guidance of a qualified teacher

### **Be accountable**

Because our overall purpose in life is to glorify God, how we act is very important. Everything we do reflects on Him. As a member of Eastlake, you will be held to a high standard.

We do not expect perfection, of course, and we aren't going to dig into your personal life to dredge up secret sins. However, we are commanded to hold each other accountable.

*Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.*

*(Galatians 6:1)*

We have the job of restoring fellow believers who have fallen into sin. In the case that a brother or sister refuses to repent, church discipline may be necessary. Ultimately, church membership may be revoked for a member who refuses to repent.

### **Be involved in ministry**

A church is a body! Just as your body cannot function efficiently if one part is injured, the church struggles when one of its members does not contribute to the whole.

*And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;*

*(Ephesians 4:11-13)*

Think of four skills you have. Don't limit yourself to what you might consider "church skills." What do you have the ability to do? In what areas do you have experience?

---

---

---

---

Now, be creative. How can you use these in the church?

# Congratulations!

---

You have finished your Introduction to Eastlake. I hope it has been a blessing to you.

We look forward to serving God together with you. As you begin to get involved at Eastlake Baptist Church, let me encourage you to find an area of ministry where your talents can be used to bring glory to God.

Please don't be afraid to call on the deacons or me when you need help. That's why we're here!

In Christ,



Pastor Ben Hammond