

Joining the Family

Steps to Salvation for everyone



Brady Lane Church

Believing-Living-Connecting

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Joining the Family

Part 1

Does God Really Want me?

Do you know that God has chosen you to be part of his family? Listen to what the Bible says:

"So he decided long ago to adopt us as his children. He did it because of what Jesus Christ has done. It pleased God to do it."

(Ephesians 1:5, NIRV)

God wants you to know Him as your Heavenly Father. He wants your life on earth to be fulfilling and exciting. He also wants you to spend eternity in Heaven with Him. Unfortunately, you have done something that keeps you from enjoying that special relationship. Let me explain.

"But your sins have separated you from God."

(Isaiah 59:2, NIRV)



Sin is _____ of God's Glory (Romans 3:23, NIV)

**You sin by doing the wrong thing.
You sin by not doing the right thing.**

The Muddy Girl

Once there was a little girl who disobeyed her parents and played in the mud. When she came home, she planned to march into the house. But her father stopped her. He first took her to the side of the house and used a hose to wash off the mud. Then he brought her into his home.

Although God loves you, He will not let you into His family when you are dirty with sin. You must let Him wash away your sins.

What does God want us to do? One time a man asked Jesus that question.

"Jesus replied, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your mind.' This is the first and most important commandment. And the second is like it. 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself.'"

(Matthew 22:37-39, NIRV)

The most important thing is _____.
The next most important thing is _____.



Even though we try our best to be loving, we all fail at times. That's why the Bible says:

"There is no one without sin All people have sinned and are not good enough for God's glory" (Romans 3:10,23, ICB)



Problem #1: You Are Guilty of Breaking God's Law



What would happen if you were arrested for breaking several laws? You would receive a punishment, wouldn't you? They say crime doesn't pay, but the Bible says sin pays! Here's what it says:

"When you sin, the pay you get is death. But God gives you the gift of eternal life because of what Christ Jesus our Lord had done." (Romans 6:23, NIRV)

Sin causes us to die physically and spiritually. One day our bodies will die and we will be separated from this life. Because of sin, we will also be separated from God and His love forever. That's spiritual death. If you took away an oxygen tank from someone who needed it to breath, they would die in a matter of minutes. When you are cut off from God because of sin, you are cut off from your source of life.

Problem #2: You Have Earned the Penalty of Death

The Lost Son

Jesus told us a story about a boy who received some inheritance money from his father. He spent all his money on wild living. He came to his senses and decided to go back home and work for his father. When his father saw him returning home, he told the servants to prepare a feast. The father exclaimed: "This son of mine was dead. And now he is alive again." (Luke 15:24, ICB)

Jesus also said:

"I tell you the truth. Unless one is born again, he cannot be in God's kingdom" (John 3:3, ICB)



Problem #3: You Cannot Enter Heaven

Look at the list below and put a check by the actions that do not show love to God or to others:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lying | <input type="checkbox"/> Stealing | <input type="checkbox"/> Giving to others |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Talking back to parents | <input type="checkbox"/> Praying | <input type="checkbox"/> Hating |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Being Kind | <input type="checkbox"/> Fighting | <input type="checkbox"/> Reading the Bible |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cussing | <input type="checkbox"/> Being Jealous | <input type="checkbox"/> Cheating |

Are you guilty of breaking God's command by sinning? _____

What punishment do you earn for your sins? _____

If you stay this way, can you ever enter Heaven? _____

Write your name in the blanks

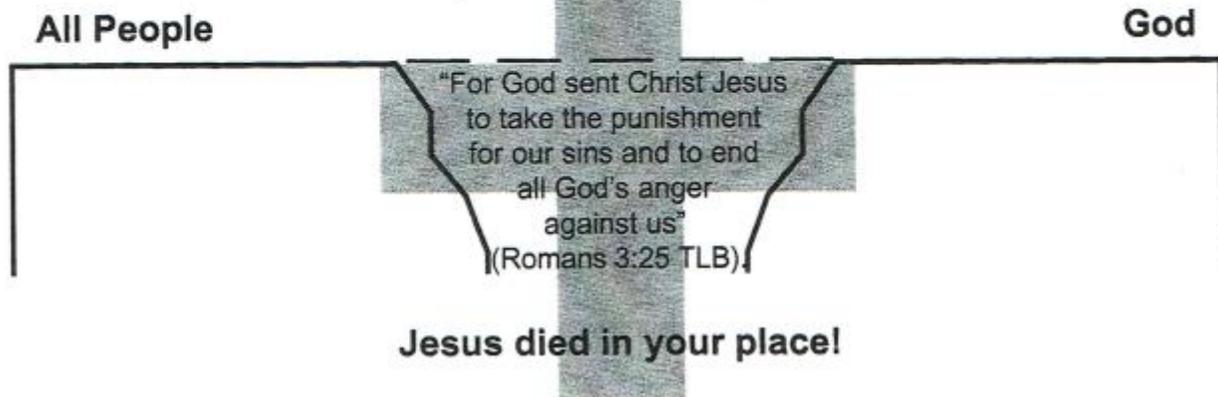
_____ is guilty of breaking God's law by not loving God and other people all the time. _____ has sinned and earned death. Unless _____ is born again, _____ cannot go to Heaven.

Who Can Help You?



What God Did For You!

[God wants everyone] "to be saved and to understand this truth: That God is on one side and all the people on the other side, and Christ Jesus . . . is between them to bring them together, by giving his life for all mankind" (1 Timothy 2:4-6, TLB).



Jesus willingly took your punishment upon himself so you could be free to live with Him forever. Why did God do that for you? He did it because He loves you!

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16, NIV)

We were separated from God because of something we have done, but we are brought together with God because of something Jesus did! *"But God gives us a free gift - life forever in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23, ICB).* Since eternal life is a gift, it cannot be earned. It can only be received. When you receive Jesus Christ and trust Him as your Lord and Savior, you become part of God's family and receive eternal life!

"But to all who received him, he gave the right to become children of God. All they needed to do was to trust him to save them." (John 1:12, TLB)

Write your name in the blanks

God loved _____ so much that he gave his one and only Son, that by believing in Him, _____ will not die, but will live forever. By receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, _____ has the right to become a child of God.

Joining the Family

Part 2

Becoming Family

In p

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

There is nothing you can do to make up for the bad things you have done. That's why we need Jesus as our Savior. The Bible says:

"He saved us - not because we were good enough to be saved,
but because of his kindness and pity."

(Titus 3:5, TLB)

The only thing you can do to become part of God's family is to trust Jesus!

Trusting Jesus



You can only be forgiven by trusting Jesus. Listen to God's promise: *"God says he will accept and acquit us . . . if we trust Jesus Christ to take away our sins. And we all can be saved in the same way, no matter who we are or what we have been like."* (Romans 3:21,22, TLB)

God accepts you no matter how good or bad you have been when you trust Jesus Christ to take away your sins. To trust means more than just believing - it means putting your life in God's hands.

A Story Of Trust

The newspaper told a story about a family that awoke one night to find their house on fire. The family escaped from the burning home - all except for the 10-year-old son named Tommy. The noise of the fire engines caused him to wake up, but the fire had spread too far for him to run downstairs. Tommy walked out onto the second-floor balcony. His only way to safety was to jump, yet all he could see below him was smoke.

Tommy then heard a voice urging him to jump. It was his dad. "Jump!" his father yelled. Tommy cried, "How can I jump, Dad? I can't even see you!"

His father answered, "I can see you, Tommy. Jump! I promise I'll catch you!" Then Tommy hesitated for a moment. He thought about his dad's love for him. He knew his dad would keep his word, so he jumped safely into his dad's arms.

You can trust God because He loves you more than anyone and will always ask you to do what's best for you. Let's look at five things we must do to accept God & trust him.

Hear



You can't know something till you learn it. Hearing God speak through his Word (the Bible) is what plants the seed for God's Word to grow inside us.

If there was a pizza party after school, but you had never heard about it, it wouldn't be right for your friends to act like you should have been there. Should you get in trouble for not taking the trash out if you didn't hear your mom ask?

Now it's a whole new story when we actually hear her ask but don't do it. The same is true for God, Scripture tells us that once we hear of the salvation God offers, it's up to us to take the next steps.

"Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like."

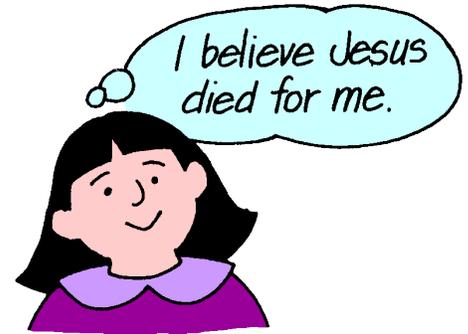
(James 1:23,24, NIV)

Believe

Believing in something you can't see is a hard task.

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen me but still have believed." (John 20:29, ESV)

There are many things in life today that make it hard to believe in the things we see or hear. Most of us have probably watched a magic show before, the Magician pulls off a really cool trick and we are left going, "How did they do that? I can't believe what I just saw?"



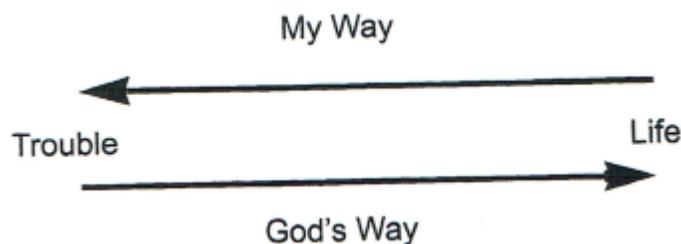
Belief in God and his Word can be hard because so many things in the world today try to trick us in to believing things that aren't true. But God's word can be trusted. And if we can trust his word, then we can trust what it says about salvation.

Recognize, Confess, & Turn Away From Sin

When you become a Christian, you hate sin because it separates you from God. So you choose to do things that please God. God is pleased when you can recognize sin, turn away from sin and follow His ways! The Bible calls this "repentance."

"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out"

(Acts 3:19, NIV)



When you accept Jesus as your Lord, you accept the things he values, like love, honesty, patience, and obedience. When Jesus is your Lord, you live to please Him. The Bible says, "God has bought you with a great price. So use every part of your body to give glory back to God, because He owns it." (1 Corinthians 6:20, TLB)

The difference between confess & repent? When you confess something, it's usually because you got caught. Repentance comes when you not only confess but make an effort to not do it again. No easy task!

Be Baptized

When you trust Jesus and are willing to turn away from sin, you are ready to be baptized. To be baptized means to be "dipped" or "immersed" in water. The Bible tells us that you should be baptized when you accept Jesus. These are some examples of people who were baptized:

Some Believers Who Were Baptized

- On the day the church began, 3000 people who believed in Jesus were baptized (Acts 2)
- The Samaritan men & women believed Philip's message and were baptized (Acts 8)
- After the Ethiopian official heard about Jesus, he asked to be baptized (Acts 8)
- Cornelius, his relatives and friends were ordered to be baptized after they believed and received the Holy Spirit (Acts 10)
- A jailer and his family were baptized because they had come to believe in Jesus (Acts 16)
- Some of John the Baptist's disciples were baptized because they believed in Jesus (Acts 19)

Baptism is a symbol of the commitment you make to God in becoming a Christian. You are "buried" in water - representing the fact that your sins and old way of life are put to death. Then, you are "raised" from the water - just as Jesus was raised from the dead, so that you may live a new life for God. The Bible puts it this way:

"So when you were baptized, we were buried with Christ and shared his death. We were buried with him so that we could live a new life, just as Christ was raised from death by the wonderful power of the Father." (Romans 6:4, ICB)

When you give your life to God, He washes your soul clean of sin and fills you with His Spirit, making you His child. You look the same on the outside, but you are new on the inside. The Bible promises:

"When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same any more. A new life has begun!" (2 Corinthians 5:17, TLB)

Tell Others that Jesus is Your Lord

When you claim Jesus as your Lord, you are willing to let others know. Have you ever been to a wedding? In a wedding, a man and a woman tell everyone in the audience that they have chosen to put the other person first in their life. It is important that they speak their promises. In a similar way, God wants us to be proud enough to tell others that Jesus is first in your life. The Bible says:

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

(Romans 10:9, NIV)

Joining the Family

Part 3

Being A Part Of The Family

God Lives For You!

When you join God's family you are called by a new name: CHRISTIAN. A Christian has a special relationship with God. God is your Heavenly Father, and you are His child. The Bible says, *"The Father has loved us so much! He loved us so much that we are called children of God. And we really are his children."* (1 John 3:1, ICB)

God gives many promises to His children!



1. He _____ all of your sins. (Acts 10:43)
2. He gives you the gift of the _____. (Acts 2:38)
3. You can know that you have _____. (1 John 5:13)
4. Jesus will be with you _____. (Matthew 28:19,20)
5. He _____ your prayers. (1 John 5:14,15)
6. He helps you when you are _____. (Hebrews 2:18)

You Live For God!

As a member of God's family, you continually let God work in you and through you to help others come to join God's family. One Christian says, "I have been crucified with Christ: and I myself no longer live, but Christ lives in me." (Galatians 2:20) So you allow Jesus to reach the world through you!



**First, let God work in you:
to Make You More Like Jesus**

"In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus"
(Philippians 2:5, ICB)

Even though you aren't perfect, God wants you to try your best to be like Jesus.

What Would Jesus Do?

Suppose each day in the lunch room at school, a certain boy sits all by himself. The other kids always ignore him or tease him. What do you think Jesus would do if He came into the room?

It is always good to ask yourself: "What would Jesus do?" and then do the same!

What are a couple ways you could become more like Jesus?

1. _____
2. _____

The Fruit Of The Spirit

The Holy Spirit lives in you to give you power to live for God. As you grow closer to God and obey His will for you, you will begin to produce fruit - the fruit of the Spirit.

God changes you from the inside out! The more you grow as a Christian, the more loving, joyful and peaceful - the more Christlike - you become!



"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control" (Galatians 5:22, 23)

**Second, let God work through you:
to Help Others Join God's Family.**

"You are to go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere" (Mark 16:15, TLB)

God wants each member of His family to share the message of Christ so others can join God's family too!



Pretend that everyone in the world was infected with cancer. Within a few years, everyone will die. In your room, you work to develop a cure for the disease. What will you do with the cure once you've found it?

You can help others know about Jesus by:

- Inviting friends and relatives to church
- Praying for those who are not yet Christians
- Supporting missionaries with prayers and money
- Telling others how Jesus has made you happy

Our mission is to let everyone know about Jesus! Who is someone you could share the gospel message with or invite to church?

Four Important Questions

Now that we have concluded our study, I have 4 very important questions for you.

1. Do you believe Jesus is the Son of God, and that He died for your sins and rose from the dead?
2. Are you sorry for disobeying God and are you willing to turn from your ways and follow God's ways?
3. Are you willing to confess Jesus as your Savior and Lord?
4. Are you ready to be baptized and live as a member of God's family?

Next steps!

We hope this book has helped you find some answers and learn more about God's plan for us. God really does want us to be part of this family!

Joining God's family (accepting the gift of Salvation) is a big step! Even bigger than what to choose to eat at lunch. You wouldn't rush your decision about lunch, you might get something that doesn't taste good. You shouldn't rush your decision about joining God's family either. Do it for the right reasons and make sure you know how important it is.

Once you have decided to make that decision or are almost ready, contact Stacey to discuss things. We'll just make sure you understand everything.

After that, we will set up a date/service for you to get immersed. Also, think about who you would like to baptize you. We encourage a parent to do the baptism but whoever does it needs to be baptized already.

On the day of baptism, make sure to wear or bring a swim suit to wear under the robe. We will have towels provided.

STEP 1: When invitation time comes at the end of service, we will have you come up & head back behind the stage. You will get changed in the changing room & then will step into the baptistry with the person baptizing you.

STEP 2: They will ask you for your confession of faith/to repeat after them:
"I believe, that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God and I accept Him as my personal Lord and Savior."

STEP 3: The person baptizing you will say:
"Upon your confession of faith, I now baptize you in the name of the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit for the forgiveness of your sins & the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Step 4: You will pinch your nose with one hand while covering your nose & mouth with the other and will be leaned backwards under the water as you bend your knees and then will be brought back out of the water.

We know it can be scary standing in front of everyone but remember, they are there to support you and help you as a new Christian.