

LIFE GROUP

LEADER MANUAL



FALL 2025



LIFE GROUP LEADER GUIDE

For New and Experienced Leaders

Welcome to Life Group Leadership

"We do life better together."

Life Groups are where people connect, grow, and live out their faith in real community. Your role as a leader is vital. You create spaces where people meet Jesus, build lasting relationships, and take their next steps in following Him.

**"THEY DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO THE
APOSTLES' TEACHING AND TO FELLOWSHIP,
TO THE BREAKING OF BREAD AND TO
PRAYER."
ACTS 2:42**

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PURPOSE

We believe people are designed for community. When we intentionally build community with other believers, we put ourselves in a place to experience discipleship and life change through the power of the Gospel.

1 JOHN 1:7 - “BUT IF WE WALK IN THE LIGHT, AS HE IS IN THE LIGHT, WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER,”



Our Core Values

God First

Love for God and His word is the heartbeat of Calvary. Life Groups provide us with an avenue to love the Lord through deeper connection with believers and the study of His word.

Mark 12:30

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”

Healthy Things Grow

Believers are not designed to walk through life alone. We find health and growth as we stay connected to God and other Christians through worship, community, and time together. Although our culture devalues personal relationships, Scripture teaches we are designed for relationships with others.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

“Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble.”

People are the Priority

Our goal is that Calvary feels like a small church with lots of people. This happens when we choose to make others our priority. Life Groups is the avenue to helping people feel connected and known.

1 Corinthians 12:12

“Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.”

We Get to Do This

One of the biggest blessings Life Group leaders have is investing in the lives of others. We are given the unique opportunity to demonstrate the hope God gives us. This happens through serving one another, bearing one another's burdens, speaking the truth in love, and spurring each other towards God's promises. It is a privilege as leaders to serve with God to see life change in His people.

Ephesians 4:16

“From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”



TYPES OF LIFE GROUPS

We have different categories to help people find a group that is right for them:

- Community Groups: Meet in a relaxed setting with food, prayer, discussion, and fellowship
- Bible Studies: Groups that are dedicated to using their time together to study Scripture.
- Support Groups: A safe and comfortable meeting space to talk with others going through similar difficult seasons of life
- Interest Groups: A group that meets to share a specific activity such as crafting, biking, walking, coffee making, pickleball, etc.



ROLE OF A LEADER

As a Life Group leader, you have the privilege of leading the way for people to encounter life change. Life Group leaders represent and reflect the heart of Christ and are representatives of Calvary Church and our pastoral team. You stand at the frontlines, cheering on and encouraging your groups through shepherding, relevant content, support, and mentorship.

QUALITIES NEEDED

- Loves God and is Spirit-led
- Passion for the Bible
- Actively involved in the church community
- Lives a life worth imitating
- Cares for people and wants to help them find community
- Flexible with change and a positive attitude

QUALIFICATIONS

- Has a personal relationship with Jesus
- Recognize the Bible as the final authority
- Read/understand the 16 Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God
- Attended Calvary 101
- Active part of a Calvary Life Group for at least 4 months
- Has a positive recommendation from their Life Group leader
- Comfortable functioning as a leader
- Has the time, emotional capacity, and spiritual discernment to serve
- Has the desire to foster community in your group

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Regularly pray with and for the members of your Life Group
- Provide care through prayer, spiritual, and practical support while encouraging other group members to do the same
- Record group attendance and correspond with prospects, and monitor group health
- Lead and facilitate your group using material approved by Life Group Leadership or sermon discussion questions
- Maintain clear and consistent communication with your group through text, email, or phone calls
- Be open to counsel from leadership and provide regular updates about your Life Group
- Maintain unity by representing the vision and theology of Calvary Church

STAYING HEALTHY

Leadership can be draining. Here are some tips to combat burnout:

Refuel your soul

Make effort to talk with your co-leader, a mentor, or a friend on a regular basis. Receiving encouragement and practical wisdom from people around you will do wonders for your soul. Try doing the same for others!

Share responsibilities

A good Life Group leader will never carry all the responsibilities of the group. There are many things that can be delegated to responsible people. A great co-leader can oversee parts of the responsibility, such as emails, refreshments, hosting, and more. This strategy not only helps to give you a break but also helps group members grow.

Cultivate your walk with God

Cultivating your own walk with God puts you on the offense against Satan and increases joy in your life. Make a renewed decision right now to consistently pursue time with God. Don't give Satan a foothold in your heart; there is simply too much at stake.

LIVING AS A LEADER

Lifestyle Commitment

As representatives of Calvary Church and Christ, it is imperative that our actions are above reproach in all things. The following lifestyle commitment applies to all Calvary Life Group Leaders. When leaders are not able to adhere to these standards it may result in being asked to temporarily step down or resign from your area of ministry.

- We commit to maintain a lifestyle of a worshiper surrendered to Christ. (Romans 12:1)
- We commit to living a life above reproach (1 Timothy 3:1-7). As such, we will abstain from illegal substances or activity, sexual promiscuity, immodesty of dress, pornography, tobacco in any form, hallucinogenic drugs and substances, or narcotics not authorized by a physician, and drunkenness.
- We maintain respect for those in leadership and for the members of the Calvary Life Group team. (1 Peter 2:13-17)
- We commit to demonstrating, encouraging, and seeking the attributes of Galatians 5:22-23 (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control) in our relationships with one another.
- We refrain from the use of profanity, vulgarity, slander, and gossip both in personal and social media interactions. (Ephesians 4:29)
- We will commit to daily investment in our walk with the Lord and others.
- As we do our best to live a lifestyle of holiness, we will abstain from all alcohol use during group meetings and be mindful of our social media presence. We will adhere to each of these to avoid being a stumbling block to those we lead. (1 Corinthians 8:9)

The standards listed in the Lifestyle Commitment are not exhaustive; rather, they provide a guideline of conduct we believe is in accordance with our beliefs, which are based on Biblical standards.

PLANNING YOUR GROUP

No matter what type of group you lead, **your goal should always be to connect with God and connect with each other.** To assist in this goal, read through the information below.



CONNECT WITH GOD AND CONNECT WITH EACH OTHER

Location

Groups meet in all kinds of spaces. Finding the right place for your group may take a bit of thought and planning. Think through how many people you will host, will you need a space for food, are kids invited, etc. If your own home is not an option, consider inviting someone to join your group who would be willing to host. Other possibilities include: library conference room, park, or restaurant/coffee shop.

Day/Time

When picking a day/time to meet, consider the following:

- Your work schedule
- Times that work for your friends/new group members
- How often do you want to meet - weekly, bi-weekly, monthly

Format

What do you want your time as a group to include? We want all groups to connect with God and connect with each other. There are many ways for this to happen.

Prayer

Prayer is vital to each group meeting. Decide on how you would like to structure that prayer time. Here are a few ideas. You can find more under “Helpful Tips” at the end of the manual.

- Each person shares one prayer and one praise
- Ask each person to pray for a specific need
- Each person shares one request that directly affects their life



Finding a Co-Leader

Having a co-leader is one of the best ways to share the joy and responsibility of leading a group. A co-leader can come alongside you in caring for members, preparing for meetings, hosting, communicating, and guiding discussions. We encourage every group to have a co-leader (or a co-leading couple) to make leadership lighter and more effective.

When looking for a co-leader, keep an eye out for someone who loves people and shows evidence of the leadership qualities outlined on page 4. They may not check every box yet—that's okay! Part of our calling as leaders is to help raise up new leaders. For some, group leadership is exactly what God has designed them for, and they will thrive when given the opportunity.

A Note on Relationships: If you are currently dating or engaged, we ask that you choose a co-leader who is not your significant other. This helps protect your relationship and also ensures your Life Group remains focused, welcoming, and healthy for everyone involved.

Recruiting

As a church, we will advertise and encourage people to join Life Groups, but adding members to your new group starts with you! Here are some different ways to find group members.

- Start with 2-3 people who are already in your sphere of influence (friends, neighbors, family)
- Find people around you who are new to the church, new believers, or have shown interest in getting involved
- Praying God will open doors and start conversations with people looking for a place to belong

Questions to Ask Yourself

As you finalize the details of your group, take a moment to ask yourself these questions:

- What is my goal with this group?
- If doing a study, what materials do I want to use?
- What is my target audience for this group?
- How many people do I want in my group?
- Will my group be open to children or have child care?

Here are the questions you will need to answer when setting up your Life Group.

- Co-Leader or potential co-leader name
- Brief group description
- Where will my group meet and how often will we meet. What day/time will we meet
- What type of group will it be: Community, Bible Study, Interest-Based, Support
- What is the demographic of my group: college, young adult, family, general adult, women, men, empty nesters, retirees, etc
- What is the max number of people my group can hold
- What type of study/material will I use
- List 2-3 People you want to invite to your group

LAUNCHING YOUR GROUP

Before Your First Meeting

- Start to pray for your members and invite the Holy Spirit to do what He wants in your group.
 - Prepare your discussion materials or group activity. This ensures you have what you need so there are no bumps along the way.
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4 Aspects of Your Meeting

Welcome

Allow time for people to arrive, get situated, and connect with others. This time is helpful for those running a few minutes late. The first ten seconds after arrival are critical for new members. Make a great first impression!

Group Discussion

Consider adding a simple icebreaker to help people connect. Look for ways to apply what was studied to everyday life. Remember that your biggest role is a facilitator!

Connecting

Create a casual time for group members to talk and get to know each other. Never underestimate the significance of this time! Some groups will use a meal or snack time together for this time.

Prayer

Ask for prayer requests from group members and pray at the beginning and/or the end of each group meeting.

Goals for the First Meeting

- Create a welcoming environment with a clean and inviting meeting area.
 - Do introductions at the beginning of your meeting so everyone can feel seen!
 - Clarify your group's direction, expectations, and commitments.
 - Allow extra time for people to get to know each other
 - If there is extra time, spend a few minutes talking about the first week's materials or do a short sermon review
 - Pray for the building of relationships and the spiritual growth of the group
-

The Rule of 3's

Our heart is to provide a safe environment for both group members and group leaders. As leaders, we always want to err on the side of caution and not allow any space for accusations or the appearance of evil. In the event that multiple members cannot join or do not show up, remember that there should be at least 3 people present. Never put yourself in a one-on-one situation with a group member of the opposite sex.



STRENGTHENING YOUR GROUP

The Importance of Follow-up

Following up with people outside of weekly meetings - whether by phone, email, text, or in person - is one of the most effective ways to help people feel they are an important part of the group. Here are 3 groups of people you want to follow up with.

First Time Visitors

When someone visits for the first time, have someone contact them within a day or two to thank them for coming. This is a great chance to find out how they felt about the meeting, answer any questions, and invite them to the next group. This simple act may be the difference between them deciding to return or not.

Regulars Who Miss Meetings

If someone has been a regular attendee and suddenly misses a few meetings in a row, it is a good idea to check in to see how they're doing. Even if nothing is wrong, it can mean the world to people to know that they are thought of and missed.

People in Crisis

If someone connected with your group is going through a difficult time, a phone call can be a great way to show you care. Let them know they are on your radar during the week.

Caring for People as a Leader

Remember, God equips those He calls. We learn many of these skills along the way, meaning you don't need to feel overwhelmed or underqualified.

Caring for People as a Group - hospital visits, births, follow-ups

A primary function of a Life Group is to care for one another. As a leader, your role is to guide your group through this process. You can do things like:

- Visiting group members who are in the hospital
- Make a meal when a baby is born or someone is sick
- Reach out to members who are distancing themselves from the group
- Call or visit a member to pray with them if they are struggling

Caring for People as a Leader - in times of joy and sorrow

One of the greatest privileges of leading people is being able to celebrate with those who are celebrating or being available to those who are suffering. Leaders must try to help people find God's goodness in whatever season they find themselves in. Remember that people don't always care how much you know until they know how much you care.

Communicating with Calvary Leadership

At times, there may be a group member's need that goes beyond what you or your group can provide. It is always healthy to communicate these situations to church leadership so that we can help support you in this process. If you have a group member with a life-changing situation (death, move, salvation, baptism, etc), please share these details with the church staff so that we can be sure to update their profile in our church wide data base.



Fostering Community in Your Group

Life Groups are not defined by a weekly meeting but by a network of growing friendships. These relationships are far more important than attendance within the group. Although the group may not start as best friends, Life Group leaders must trust God for deepening relationships and be patient as people take time to understand and trust each other as friends!

Many of the ways your group members will grow closer to God and each other will happen outside the normal meetings. Moving beyond the context of a living room brings out a different side of people and allows them to express their gifts and talents in amazing ways. It is also a great place for unplanned conversations and memorable moments.



Connecting Outside Group Meetings

Encourage group members to connect between scheduled group times!

- Dinner
- Super Bowl party
- Pool party
- A bonfire or fall hike
- Attend a concert or play
- Group bike ride
- Join a sports league (soccer, volleyball, etc.)
- Bowling night or game night
- Attend a sporting event
- Movie night
- Picnic or BBQ in a local park
- Sitting together at a church service

Serving Together

Choose an area on Sunday mornings to serve during church or Love the 419 together. There are many ways each month your group can grow in community while blessing others.

Raising Up New Leaders

Our job as leaders is to shepherd and disciple people in their walk with the Lord. A call to leadership is something that grows through this process. As you invest in others' lives, you may start to see God's calling for them to lead. Often, new leaders will need help along the way, encouragement to try something new, and a small push to step outside of their comfort zone.

When you see leadership potential in a group member, we encourage assignments before appointments. Start by asking potential leaders to lead a part of a meeting or to host at their house. When you have seen some successful assignments and have a level of confidence, it's time to start the conversation about co-leading with the individual and your Life Group leadership team.

Steps To Train New Leaders:

- I do, you watch – we chat
- I do, you help – we chat
- You do, I help – we chat
- You do, I watch – we chat
- Commission!

Multiplying Groups

Calvary's core values remind us that healthy things grow. Multiplication allows the space for healthy groups to grow and opens the door for new people who need community. It also gives new leaders the chance to grow in what God has called them to do.

Reasons to multiply your Life Group

- Give others a chance to enjoy the community you've experienced in your group
- Helps us to live out our mission to love people
- Gives a chance for new leaders to develop and use their gifts
- Groups of 15-20 people find it hard to connect and care for each other

Preparing to multiply your Life Group

- Create a multiplication culture in your group by celebrating growth and talking about multiplication from the beginning
- Share roles and responsibilities in the group
- Make multiplication a regular item of prayer in your group

Methods of multiplication

There are a number of different ways to multiply your Life Group effectively. Take a look at some of the options below to determine which might be right for your group. Be sure to include Calvary's Life Group leadership team as you work through this process.

DEALING WITH A CHALLENGING GROUP MEMBER



As a Life Group Leader, you will likely come across someone who is a challenge to the dynamics of the group. This is part of what happens when we live in a community. Don't be discouraged! By being prepared and having some strategies and tools, you can minimize disruptions and distractions.

Everyone can be a challenging group member at times

When we talk about challenging group members, we're not just talking about a few "problem" people. All of us at different times or in different contexts can be the challenging group member. It might be something we are doing to get on others' nerves or just a blind spot that keeps us from seeing how we affect group dynamics. Realizing that all of us can fall into these traps keeps us humble as we approach these situations.

Take ownership of the process

When someone is disrupting the discussion or causing an unhealthy dynamic in the group, all eyes are on you as the leader to do something. This is the time to step in and take the lead with love. Don't assume that group dynamic issues will sort themselves out on their own – they usually don't.

What is best for everyone?

When we talk about dealing with a challenging group member, we're not talking about techniques for shutting people down. *Remember, our ultimate goal is to work towards what is best for them and the group.*



Stages in Dealing with Group Disruptions

Step 1 – Prevention

Establish group commitments at the beginning of the year and review them periodically as a group – this can save you a lot of awkwardness later. (See “Group Commitment” in the Resource section)

Step 2 – Redirection

When someone begins disrupting the group, try to redirect the conversation on the spot. You can graciously guide them back to the initial question, or stop them and say something like, “Thank you for sharing your thoughts, can we continue that conversation after our group discussion?”

Step 3 – Confrontation

At times, it will be necessary to have a one-on-one conversation with the person involved, either before or after the meeting, or during the week. If you feel the issue has reached this level, be sure to involve your Life Group leadership and look through the guidelines below.

Confronting the Challenging Group Member

- Share the concern with your Life Group leadership team
- Do your “plank-check” (Matthew 18:15-17): take some time to write down the possible root cause of issues within the group
- Consider the person in question:
 - Condition – does the difficulty stem from a medical condition that is causing the issue?
 - Crisis – is the person going through a season of life that is particularly difficult?
 - Character – is this a character issue that needs to be mentored and developed?
- Pray for the person
- Think about a reasonable outcome and plan your conversation to that end

HELPFUL TIPS ALONG THE WAY

Every group will go through season. When you are stuck or feeling frustrated look back to see what tips might be helpful.

Prayer

Prayer is the cornerstone of every Life Group. Without prayer, Life Group is simply a social event. Through prayer, we invite God to transform and renew our lives as we meet together.



Tips on Prayer

- Have a place to record prayer requests and answered prayers. This allows you a chance to look back and see God's provision!
- Ways to pray in and for your group:
 - To be open to God's voice and have ears to hear and a heart to learn
 - Have a heart of gratitude
 - For safety and unity in their group members' homes
 - To be strengthened by each other
- If prayer seems to be taking over your group time, consider adding a time limit
 - Have each person share only one prayer request that directly affects them
 - Have each person share, then do a general prayer afterwards without repeating each specific request
 - Try praying at the end of your meeting instead of the beginning
 - Ask each person to share their needs in a minute or less
 - Give everyone a 3x5 card to write down prayer requests for the week and have them exchange cards with another member of the group

Creative Ideas for Group Prayer

- Pray through a Psalm out loud together
- In a couples group, have spouses pray for each other
- Pick a portion of Scripture to pray for one another during the week (Col. 1:9; Eph. 3:14-19)
- Do a group study on prayer

How to be a Great Facilitator

People often think leading a Life Group is being the best theologian, leader, preacher, friend, host, and more. This is not the case. Although a good Life Group Leader has Godly character and a level of wisdom and leadership, the main role you play is facilitating the contributions of others who are in the group. Here are some tips to help you facilitate each section of your group meetings.

Connecting

Relational connection is the glue that holds a group together. Help facilitate these connections by setting a tone of relational warmth and creating environments conducive to friendship building (meals, games, fun activities or story sharing).

Group Conversation

Here are the keys to facilitating a life change conversation

- Set the tone of openness and vulnerability by being authentic and warm
- Use the scripture to find the answer to life's questions
- Acknowledge everyone who speaks during a discussion and listen well to ask more questions that inspire life-changing conversation
- Ensure that you draw out the contributions of the more thoughtful, quieter people
- Instead of answering every question that is asked, allow space for people to offer their Bible-informed and experience-based answers
- Contribution is thwarted when one or two people speak far more than others

Tips for Family Life Groups

Family Life Groups have a unique challenge – what do we do with the kids? The reality is, there are no perfect solutions when it comes to organizing childcare. As a group, you'll need to find what works best for you. There are many options your group can consider. Here are a few:

- Hire a babysitter and have the kids together in another part of the home where you meet.
- Take turns having parents in your group watch the kids when you meet.
- If group members live close together, have a babysitter with the kids at someone's home who lives nearby, where you meet for your Life Group.
- Have group members find their own childcare solution, then come together with the kids for one group social per month.
- Find a Bible study that is designed for moms, dads, and kids to do together.
- Another unique challenge is finding a good time to meet with kids. Consider meeting earlier in the day or on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon or early evening.

RESOURCES

Calvary offers a wide range of media resources to use for your group.

Weekly Discussion Guide

Each week on Sunday evening, a sermon discussion guide is emailed to leaders to use in their group. This is a great way to allow for discussion of the current sermon series and to walk through practical life application.

RightNow Media

This is an online tool Calvary has provided for any church attendee to access. Simply go to toledocalvary.org or the Calvary app and click on the “Media” tab. Choose “RightNow Media.” and follow the instructions to create your own account. You will have access to thousands of Biblical teachings, book studies, and TV series for free.

Calvary Church Building Use

Calvary’s campus was provided by God and the generosity of our church members. Therefore, those who are permitted to use the church for their Life Group meeting are asked to steward the campus by adhering to the Building Use Agreement.

We are able to offer meeting space to Life Groups during certain days and times. Building use depends on availability and is subject to the leader being able to follow the building guidelines.

The building is available for Life Groups on:

Sundays - During morning services and from 2pm - 8pm

Monday - Thursday - 9am - 4:30pm

Tuesday Evenings - 6pm - 9pm

Friday Mornings - 9am - 12pm

If you are interested in having your Life Group meet at Calvary, please reach out to the Life Group leadership team to begin the process.

BUILDING USE GUIDELINES

Rooms

- Often, multiple groups or activities are using the building at the same time, so please use your assigned room and stay in your space to prevent disruption of other activities.
- Leave your room in the state in which you found it.
- Furniture (tables, chairs, etc.) or equipment in the church must stay in the building unless you have prior permission from the Life Group leadership.

Children

- Life Groups are welcome to have children join their group, however, the children must remain in the same room as the parents/guardians.
- Responsible adult supervision is always required when on the premises. Allowing older children to supervise young children is not a substitute for adult supervision.
- Toys are not available, but group members may bring their own.

Kitchen & Food Use

- The kitchen and the items in the kitchen are not available for use during Life Groups unless previously discussed and approved by Life Group leadership.
- When approved, kitchen items that are damaged will need to be repaired/replaced by the group.
- Food/drinks will be provided by the group leader or group members.
- Food/drinks should stay within your approved room.

Audio-Visual Equipment

- TVs are available in most rooms and are equipped to stream video or connect to a computer via HDMI. DVD players are available by request.
- The use of audio-visual equipment in any of the auditoriums requires operation by a member of the audio-visual team from Calvary Church.

General

- Group leaders must stay until the last member of their group leaves the building.
- Calvary Church reserves the right to preempt any event in cases of emergencies (i.e., funerals). Notice will be given to the leader as early as possible to help assist in any rescheduling that may be needed.
- Activities that conflict with the beliefs and practices of Calvary Church and the Assemblies of God may not take place on our property.
- The premises may not be used for any unlawful purposes.
- Smoking, non-prescriptive drugs, and alcohol are prohibited in the building.

Incident or Injury

If an incident or injury takes place at Calvary during your group, you are responsible to do the following:

- Contact the Life Group leadership team with details of the incident.
- Submit an official incident report (with signatures of those involved) to the church (located at the front desk)
- Follow up with the individual the next day to make sure everything is going ok.

16 Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God

The 16 Fundamentals are the foundation of our church. Here is a list and details on each fundamental, should you need any guidance. You can also refer to www.ag.org for more info on what we believe as a church.

1. THE SCRIPTURES INSPIRED: The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired by God and are the revelation of God to man, the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct.

- 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:21

2. THE ONE TRUE GOD: The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM," the Creator of heaven and earth and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

- Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10,11; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22

3. THE DEITY OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST: The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. The Scriptures declare:

- His virgin birth - Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31; Luke 1:35
- His sinless life - Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22
- His miracles - Acts 2:22; Acts 10:38
- His substitutionary work on the cross - 1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21
- His bodily resurrection from the dead - Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; 1 Corinthians 15:4
- His exaltation to the right hand of God - Acts 1:9; Acts 1:11; Acts 2:33; Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1:3

4. THE FALL OF MAN: Man was created good and upright; for God said, "Let us make man in our own image, after our likeness." However, man by voluntary transgression, fell and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God.

- Genesis 1:26,27; Genesis 2:17; Genesis 3:6; Romans 5:12-19

5. THE SALVATION OF MAN: Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

Conditions to Salvation: salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God, according to the hope of eternal life.

- Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11; Titus 3:5-7

The Evidence of Salvation: the inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit.

- Romans 8:16

The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness.

Ephesians 4:24; Titus 2:12

6. THE ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH

BAPTISM IN WATER: The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded by the Scriptures. All who repent and believe in Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in the newness of life.

- Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47,48; Romans 6:4

HOLY COMMUNION: The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements --bread and the fruit of the vine-- is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:4), a memorial of his suffering and death (1 Corinthians 11:26), and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Corinthians 11:26), and is enjoined on all believers "till He come!"

7. THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT: All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian Church. With it comes the endowment of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry.

- Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31

This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth.

- Acts 8:12-17; Acts 10:44-46; Acts 11:14-16; Acts 15:7-9

With the baptism in the Holy Spirit come such experiences as:

- an overflowing fullness of the Spirit, John 7:37-39, Acts 4:8
- a deepened reverence for God, Acts 2:43, Hebrews 12:28
- an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work, Acts 2:42
- and a more active love for Christ, for His Word and for the lost, Mark 16:20

8. THE INITIAL PHYSICAL EVIDENCE OF THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT: The baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance. - Acts 2:4

The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues, but is different in purpose and use. - 1 Corinthians 12:4-10; 1 Corinthians 12:28

9. SANCTIFICATION: Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God.

- Romans 12:1,2
- 1 Thessalonians 5:23
- Hebrews 13:12

The Scriptures teach a life of "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord."

- Hebrews 12:14

By the power of the Holy Spirit we are able to obey the command: "Be ye holy, for I am holy."

- 1 Peter 1:15,16

Sanctification is realized in the believer by recognizing his identification with Christ in His death and resurrection, and by the faith reckoning daily upon the fact of that union, and by offering every faculty continually to the dominion of the Holy Spirit.

- Romans 6:1-11; Romans 6:13; Romans 8:1,2; Romans 8:13; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 2:12,13; 1 Peter 1:5

10. THE CHURCH AND ITS MISSION:

- The Church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her great commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the General Assembly and Church of the Firstborn, which are written in heaven.
 - Ephesians 1:22,23; Ephesians 2:22; Hebrews 12:23
- Since God's purpose concerning man is to seek and to save that which is lost, to be worshiped by man, to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, and to demonstrate His love and compassion for all the world, the priority reason for being of the Assemblies of God as part of the Church is:
 - To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world - Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19,20; Mark 16:15,16
 - To be a corporate body in which man may worship God. - 1 Corinthians 12:13
 - To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son - Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 1 Corinthians 14:12
 - To be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world. - Psalms 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27

The Assemblies of God exists expressly to give continuing emphasis to this reason for being in the New Testament apostolic pattern by teaching and encouraging believers to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. This experience:

- Enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs. - Mark 16:15-20; Acts 4:29-31; Hebrews 2:3,4
- Adds a necessary dimension to a worshipful relationship with God. - 1 Corinthians 2:10-16; 1 Corinthians 12; 1 Corinthians 13; 1 Corinthians 14
- Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ and care for the poor and needy of the world. - Galatians 5:22-26; Matthew 25:37-40; Galatians 6:10; 1 Corinthians 14:12; Ephesians 4:11,12; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Colossians 1:29

11. THE MINISTRY: A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the fourfold purpose of leading the Church in:

- Evangelization of the world - Mark 16:15-20
- Worship of God - John 4:23,24
- Building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son - Ephesians 4:11-16
- Meeting human needs with ministries of love and compassion - Psalms 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27

12. DIVINE HEALING: Divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement, and is the privilege of all believers.

- Isaiah 53:4,5; Matthew 8:16,17; James 5:14-16

13. THE BLESSED HOPE: The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the imminent and blessed hope of the church.

- 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 15:51,52

14. THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST: The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on earth for one thousand years.

- Zechariah 14:5; Matthew 24:27; Matthew 24:30; Revelation 1:7; Revelation 19:11-14; Revelation 20:1-6

This millennial reign will bring the salvation of national Israel,

- Ezekiel 37:21,22; Zephaniah 3:19,20; Romans 11:26,27

And the establishment of universal peace.

- Isaiah 11:6-9; Psalms 72:3-8; Micah 4:3,4

15. THE FINAL JUDGMENT: There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged according to their works. Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, together with the devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, will be consigned to the everlasting punishment in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.

- Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 19:20; Revelation 20:11-15; Revelation 21:8

16. THE NEW HEAVENS AND THE NEW EARTH: "We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness."

- 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21; Revelation 22