

Foundations Bible Studies

Southeast Christian Church Adult Sunday Group 9:15 to 10:15 AM

Invitation Tagline

Tired of McDoctrines? Come learn the etiquette of a meal with Jesus.

Purpose

Build a strong biblical foundation for following Jesus Christ. Our desire is simple: to help people know Jesus, follow Him, and become lifelong disciples.

Introduction

These studies are designed for those exploring Christianity, new believers, and Christians who want to grow deeper in their faith and understanding. Everyone comes from a different background. Some have little or no exposure to Scripture, while others have years of experience but want to strengthen their foundation. Whether you are beginning your journey, continuing to grow, or revisiting the core truths of the Christian faith, these studies are designed to help you take the next step.

A Restoration Approach

Southeast Christian Church leans toward a restoration approach. This means we are not trying to create something new, but are committed to the common teachings and normative practices revealed in the New Testament. We believe Scripture is our final authority and seek to align our beliefs, worship, and lives with the biblical pattern.

Throughout church history, Christians have developed many traditions, practices, and expressions of the faith. Rather than attempting to address every historical development, we seek to emphasize the teachings and normative practices consistently demonstrated by the early church in Scripture.

We also place a high priority on Christian unity and recognize that sincere Christians may hold differing convictions on matters that do not affect the core teachings of the Christian faith or the nature of salvation. In those areas, we seek to respond with grace, humility, and love while maintaining the unity of the body of Christ, consistent with the restoration approach.

In Acts chapter 2, the church begins as about 3,000 people respond to the gospel and acknowledge Jesus as both Lord and Christ. These early believers already had a foundation in the Scriptures and an understanding of God shaped by their Jewish heritage. They became the first to enter the New Covenant through faith in Christ, repentance, confessing Jesus as Lord, baptism, and the gift and sealing of the Holy Spirit.

The New Testament also describes the life of the early church. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayer (Acts 2:42). These practices continue to provide a biblical pattern for Christian faith, worship, and discipleship today.

The goal is not to impress others with biblical knowledge, but to discover where we may be mistaken, where we need to grow, and where we may need to repent and return to God.

How This Curriculum Works

This curriculum follows the core beliefs of Southeast Christian Church:

The Bible
God
Jesus Christ
The Holy Spirit
Mankind
Salvation
The Church

Each session stands on its own. An individual can join at any time and transition out at any time. Every session focuses on essential, foundational truth.

The goal is not only to share information, but to support growth. Each believer is encouraged to grow in faith, understanding, and daily obedience to Christ.

Group Bible Study Format *(A Host Guide is included following the Core Beliefs.)*

Each Bible study begins with group introductions. Each person shares their name and answers a simple icebreaker question. The study then begins with prayer. After prayer, the primary biblical question is presented to the group. This question is answered early in the study and then asked again at the end. The goal is for everyone to leave understanding at least one foundational truth of the Christian faith.

The Bible study is designed to be conversational. Wrong answers, conflicting answers, and not knowing an answer are all welcome. Although these are foundational studies, they are not simplistic. The goal is not to impress others with biblical knowledge, but to discover where we may be mistaken, where we need to grow, and where we may need to repent and return to God.

Learning and Living

Today, many people coming to Christ do not have the same biblical foundation. Because of this, it is helpful to provide clear and intentional teaching on the essentials of the Christian faith. These studies are designed to build that foundation by exploring biblical truth, encouraging spiritual growth, and emphasizing practical application. They cover essential teachings about God, Scripture, salvation, the Christian life, and living out one's faith in everyday life.

Our Goal

By the end of this group, the individual will:

- Have a clearer understanding of the core teachings of Christianity
- Feel confident reading and trusting the Bible
- Understand what it means to follow Jesus in everyday life
- Be prepared to take a next step in discipleship and community
- Participate in the Pathway Discipleship Courses
- Above all, the goal is to help each person grow in a deeper relationship with Jesus, grounded in truth, lived out in faith, and connected to His Church.

CORE BELIEFS

About the Bible

The Bible is the inspired word of God. It was written by men under supernatural guidance. They were inspired by God and therefore the Bible exists today without error.

2 Timothy 3:16, Psalm 119:105, Prov. 30:5

About God

God is the creator of the universe, and has eternally existed in three parts, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Gen. 1:1, 26, 27, 1 Peter 1:2, Psalms. 90:2

About Jesus

Jesus Christ is the one and only son of God. He lived a perfect, sinless life on earth. He offered himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all mankind when He died upon the cross. He was buried in a tomb for three days and then to demonstrate his power over sin and death He arose from the dead. Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven.

Matthew 1:22-23, 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, John 14:6, John 3:16

About the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and the Son as God. He lives in every Christ Follower from the moment of Salvation. He gives us the ability to live in a way that we could never live on our own.

John 14:16-17, Acts 1:8, Col. 1:27

About Mankind

Every person has priceless value and worth as a creation of God, but all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. The great news is that the forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life are available to those who trust Christ as Savior and Lord.

Romans 3:23 & John 3:16

About Salvation

We believe that the blood of Jesus and His sacrifice on the cross provide the sole basis for our forgiveness of sins. That those accepting Christ should repent of sin, confess their faith, and be baptized into Him.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Romans 10:9, Romans 6:23, Acts 2:38, Eph. 2:8-9, Gal. 3:26

About the Church

The Church is the body of Christ on earth. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit to be salt and light. The Church exists to spread the Good News and make disciples. Ephesians 4:1-16, Matthew 5:14

Psalms 51:12-13 (Berzan Standard Bible)

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,

and sustain me with a willing spirit.

Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,

and sinners will return to You.

Host Sheet

Tips for Hosting a Great Study

- Start on time. People are likely to arrive late, and it is easy to reframe the icebreaker question for late guests.
- Ask someone other than yourself to pray at the beginning and end of the study.
- Invite participants to read the suggested Scriptures when appropriate. This encourages engagement and participation.
- Don't feel like you have to have all the answers. Other people know things too, even those who are exploring Christianity.
- Be prepared for thought-provoking conversation. At some point, someone will likely ask a question or challenge an answer presented in the study. That is okay. Not every question needs to be fully resolved during the discussion. Sometimes walking away with unanswered questions is what motivates people to open their Bibles, continue studying, and seek God's truth for themselves.
- There are a lot of questions on purpose. The goal is discussion, not a lecture.

These studies focus on **Orthodoxy**, **Orthopraxy**, and **Orthopathy**. This helps ensure that biblical truth is understood, practical application is encouraged, and our hearts are shaped to desire God's will.

There may be a lot of conversation during the 35–45 minutes of Bible study, but the goal is to conclude with the central truth of the lesson so that everyone leaves with a clear takeaway and a sense of accomplishment.