



**LAKE FOREST
CHURCH
HUNTERSVILLE**

WELCOME 101

Contents of the class...

→ Discovering God's story and your role in it:

Who is God and Who are we to God?

→ Living out the story:

God's unique call on Lake Forest Church.

→ Taking a step to love others:

What's my next spiritual step of faith? With Lake Forest?

Reading Homework

God and Scripture documents found in your email or at lakeforest.org/welcome101

Missional Living Homework

Task #1 Breaking Bread

If you are a Christian, a follower of Jesus, invite someone who is not for a meal. Extra credit if it's in your home! If you are not a Christian, invite someone who is a Christian for a meal. Same extra credit opportunity!

Task #2 Cross the Fence

Do something to bless or even just start a conversation with a neighbor that you don't already know very well.

Finish this statement: Growing up, my experiences and knowledge of God made me think that He is:

God's Story

Romans 1:20 - God wants to be known and is not hiding.

Genesis 1:1 - God is the creator of all things.

Psalms 135:5-7 - God is sovereign and ruler over all things.

Isaiah 41:10 - God is relational and not at a distance.

1 Samuel 2:2 & Psalm 5:4 - God is holy and cannot be in the presence of sin.

Deuteronomy 32: 4-5 - God is perfect and does no wrong.

Lamentations 3:22-23 - God is loving, merciful and faithful.

Humanity's Story...

Genesis 1:26-27 - Humanity is created in God's image.

Genesis 1:28 & Genesis 2:15 - Humanity is created with a purpose.

Genesis 2:16 - Humanity is created with limitations.

Genesis 2:18 - Humanity is created to be in relationship.

Psalm 62:6-8 - Humanity is created to depend on God.

Something went wrong: The Fall

Genesis 3:1-5 – The deception of the Enemy

Deception will ask two major questions. How would you answer them?

1. Is God really trustworthy? Why or why not?
2. Does God really care about what's best for me? Why or why not?

Genesis 3:6 - Humans are tempted to decide for themselves what is best. We are tempted to trust what we see more than God's word.

The result of trusting ourselves more than God.

Genesis 3:7-12 - Trusting ourselves more than God leads to shame, guilt, fear and blame.

What is sin?

Sin is fundamentally the exaltation of self at the expense of God.

It says that God can't be trusted and I have to choose the best way for me.

What is the result of Adam and Eve's sin?

Romans 5:12 – The result is separation from God.

Romans 6:23 & Isaiah 59:1 - Our sin separates us from God because God is holy and cannot be in the presence of sin.

“Much that we take for granted in civilized society is based upon the assumption of human sin. Nearly all legislation has grown up because human beings cannot be trusted to settle their own disputes with justice and without self-interest. A promise is not enough; we need a contract. Doors are not enough; we have to bolt and lock them. The payment of fares is not enough; tickets have to be issued, inspected, and collected. Law and order are not enough; we need the police to enforce them. All this is due to man's sin. We cannot trust each other. We need protection against one another. It is a terrible indictment of human nature.” ~ John Stott in Basic Christianity

Jesus' Story...

Colossians 1:15-20 - What do we learn about Jesus here?

John 3:16-18 - What do we learn about Jesus here?

Colossians 1:21-23 - What do we learn about Jesus here?

Hebrews 4:15 - What do we learn about Jesus here?

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
and in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
begotten from the Father before all ages,
God from God,
Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made;
of the same essence as the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
He came down from heaven;
He became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and
the virgin Mary and was made human.
He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered and was buried.
The third day he rose again, according to the
Scriptures.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again with glory to judge the living
and the dead.
His kingdom will never end.

Our Role in God's Story with Jesus...

What is Jesus concerned about for us in each verse?

John 3:16

John 5:24

John 6:47

How can I know for sure that I will not perish but have eternal life?

Romans 3:22-24

My part in joining God's story is faith in Jesus.

God's part to join me to His story is Grace.

What is grace?

God's Riches/Righteousness At Christ's Expense.

Can we make things right on our own?

Ephesians 2:8

Works vs. Faith

Works: Trusting myself to earn God's favor by doing good deeds.

Faith: Trusting God's plan that Jesus Christ is the only way to make our relationship right.

Want to be a part of the story? Take God at His Word.

1 John 1: 8-10

Romans 10:9

3 Steps to Assurance:

Admit

Believe

Commit.

Matt. 5:13	I am the salt of the earth.
Matt. 5:14	I am the light of the world.
John 1:12	I am a child of God. (see Romans 8:16)
John 15:1,5	I am part of the true vine, a branch of Christ's life.
John 15: 15	I am Christ's friend.
John 15:16	I am chosen and appointed by Christ to bear His fruit.
Acts 1:8	I am a personal witness of Christ for Christ.
Rom. 6:18	I am a slave of righteousness.
Rom. 6:22	I am enslaved to God.
Rom. 8:14,15	I am a son/daughter of God.
Rom. 8:17	I am a joint heir with Christ sharing His inheritance with Him.
I Cor. 3:16; 6:19	I am a temple of God. His Spirit dwells in me.
I Cor. 6:17	I am united with the Lord and am one spirit with Him.
I Cor. 12:27	I am a member of Christ's body. (see Eph. 5:30)
II Cor. 5:17	I am a new creation.
II Cor. 5:18,19	I am reconciled to God and am a minister of reconciliation.
Gal. 3:26, 28	I am a son/daughter of God and one in Christ.
Gal. 4:6,7	I am an heir of God since I am a son/daughter of God.
Eph. 1:1	I am a saint (see I Cor. 1:2; Phil. 1:1; Col 1:2)
Eph. 2:10	I am God's workmanship created in Christ to do His work that He planned beforehand that I should do.

Eph. 2:19	I am a fellow citizen with the rest of God's people in His family.
Eph. 3:1, 4:1	I am a prisoner of Christ.
Eph. 4:24	I am righteous and holy.
Phil. 3:20	I am a citizen of heaven and seated in heaven right now (see Eph. 2:6).
Col. 3:3	I am hidden with Christ in God.
Col. 3:4	I am an expression of the life of Christ because He is my life.
Col. 3:12	I am chosen of God, holy, and dearly loved.
I Thess. 1:4	I am chosen and dearly loved by God.
I Thess. 5:5	I am a son/daughter of light and not of darkness.
Heb. 3:1	I am a holy brother/sister, partaker of a heavenly calling.
Heb. 3:14	I am a partaker of Christ. I share in his life.
I Pet. 2:5	I am one of God's living stones and am built up as a spiritual house.
I Pet. 2:9, 10	I am a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession to proclaim the excellencies of God.
I Pet. 2:11	I am an alien and stranger to this world I temporarily live in.
I Pet. 5:8	I am an enemy of the devil.
I John 3:1, 2	I am now a child of God. I will resemble Christ when He returns.
I John 5:18	I am born of God, and the evil one can't touch me.
Psalms 23 & 100	I am a sheep of His pasture. Therefore, I have everything I need.

The Story of LFC

Lake Forest Church History

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church Denomination's (EPC) motto is:

In Essentials, UNITY.

In non-essentials, LIBERTY.

In all things, CHARITY.

We call ourselves 'Presbyterian with a small 'p'. Because we are big 'C' Christians first and foremost. (You can learn more about our denomination at epc.org)

Now that I'm a Christian, How Do I Live Out My Role in God's Story?

LFC Strategy for Spiritual Growth: Discover, Belong, Share & Go



Acts 2:42-47: The Fellowship of Believers

DISCOVER

More of God through God's word by learning how to read and study the Bible on your own and in community.

What we believe about Scripture:

The Bible is God's completely true Story about who He is, what He has done, what He is doing, and what He will do. It was given by God to human writers and so reflects their backgrounds, styles, and use of language. The Bible is the final and infallible authority on all matters to which it speaks. Because it is God's Story, it is our best avenue for knowing Christ.

Ways to DISCOVER God's Word at LFC:

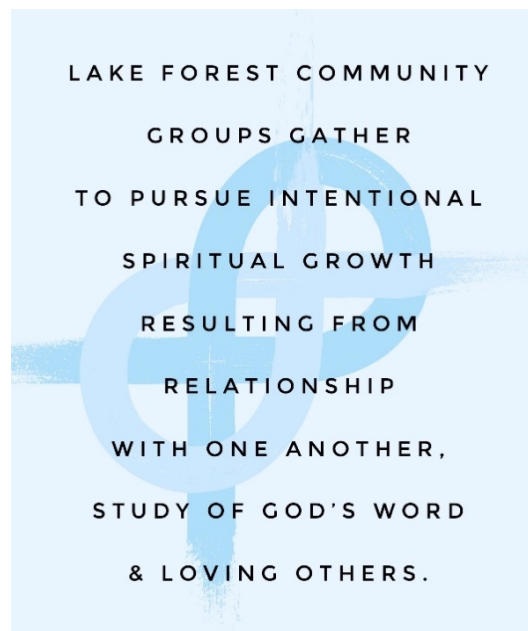
1. Sunday morning sermons and lessons for all ages from the Bible.
2. Classes & Groups at LFC always study the Bible together.
3. Personal Bible study

BELONG

In a Christ-centered small group community.

What we believe about Community:

We were each created for relationship and we live this out by involving ourselves in community with other believers. The Bible teaches that we are to be in relationship with one another as Christians. We were each created for relationship and we live this out at LFC by finding a place to BELONG in community with other believers in Community Groups and/or Men's and Women's Groups.



What is a Community Group?

The purpose of our small groups are to:

- Learn God's Word together.
- Care and pray for one another.
- Serve on Mission together.

Small group community is where we “be the church” by doing the 59 “One Another’s” in the New Testament.

Be at peace with one another

Instruct one another

Love one another

Serve one another

Wash one another's feet

Forgive one another

Honor one another

Accept one another

Be kind & compassionate to one another

Being in Community with the Greater Body of Christ:
The Church

Moral Issues and LFC Ministry Partnership

As you take a closer look at Lake Forest Church, you may want to know how we handle difficult moral issues for those who are considering ministry partnership. The short answer is that we do it as honestly, helpfully, sensitively, confidentially, and graciously as we know how.

Grace and Truth

As we look at Jesus Christ, the Bible repeatedly uses two words to describe Him – grace and trust

At Lake Forest we find that one of our greatest challenges is to follow Jesus' lead by:

1. Shooting straight with people on moral issues, while
2. Speaking the truth in such a way that it's bathed in grace and expresses God's incredible love for them.

With the Body of Christ:

Applying Grace and Truth at Lake Forest

At Lake Forest, anyone, regardless of their beliefs or lifestyle is welcome. We're a church for the unchurched. We're not asking anyone to clean up their act before coming to Lake Forest. That's grace.

It's clear in Scripture, however, that when a person puts their faith in Jesus Christ and openly identifies with Him, their faith is accompanied by a change in lifestyle. That's truth.

When a person becomes a ministry partner of Lake Forest, they are saying, among other things, that they have put their faith in Christ and are changing their lives in a way that honors God. They are also saying they are committed to the health of the "whole body."

For this reason, we ask that those who are not yet ready to let go of a lifestyle clearly discouraged in Scripture, hold off on becoming a Ministry Partner or choose to become an **Inquiring Ministry Partner**.

In the meantime, through counseling, support groups, or anything else within our reach, we'll do whatever we can to help them make a change. That's the best way we know to demonstrate both grace and truth.

Be assured that if you have a tough issue in your past or are taking the steps now to overcome a problem, this will not prevent you from becoming a Ministry Partner of Lake Forest. In fact, several of our church leaders have dealt with major difficulties.

SHARE

Your time, talents and treasure within Lake Forest

God has equipped each of us with unique gifts to build and serve His church.

1 Corinthians 12:7

Romans 12:5

What has God given you to serve Him and the needs of others?

- TIME - Ephesians 5:16
- TALENTS – 1 Corinthians 12:4
- TREASURES – 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

We believe the Bible teaches that giving God 10% of all that He's given to us is God's way of doing several important things: Growing generosity in our hearts; Protecting us from the grip of greed; Funding the spread of Good News of Jesus through the church and missions; Giving meaning to our money as we invest in a legacy of changed lives.

Other scripture references of interest regarding financial stewardship: 1 Chronicles 29:1-12, Luke 16:1-12, 2 Corinthians 9:6-11, Matthew 6:24-33

How does this look practically?

SHARE yourself by loving others as they discover and live out their role in God's story.

GO

On the missio dei (mission of God).

What does the mission of God look like?

- Going near and far.
- To serve those like me and not like me.
- Who are hungry for food and hungry for God.
- In the name of Jesus.

How we do that at LFC:

Our Mission & Passions

Our Unique Mission:

Loving people as they discover and live out their role in God's story.

Our Core Passions:

1. WELCOME who Jesus welcomed; people who have given up on church but not on God.
 - We will invite people to belong before they believe, in friendship and at church.
 - Never mocking or belittling those with whom we disagree, in every pocket of our church.
 - In essentials of the Christian faith—clarity; in non-essential cultural, political and Biblical matters—freedom; in all things—love.

Mark 2:14-17

2. LOVE like Jesus, with grace and truth.

- Worship, preaching, teaching and community that reflects both grace and truth.
- Cultivating a culture of grace where it's safe to reveal woundedness without rejection, creating space for God's healing.
- Growing in our passion for Scripture by studying it individually and together.

John 1:17

3. LIVE like Jesus; always on the missio Dei.

- Reject consumer-Christianity by calling one another to spend ourselves on behalf of others.
- Life-on-life with those hungry for God, and those hungry for food.
- Goal for 100% of Ministry Partners to have a short-term, cross-cultural Mission experience.

John 20:21

4. JOURNEY like Jesus; doing life together.

- Leading every child, student, and adult to participate in a Christ-centered small group community.
- Partnering with parents in the spiritual and character development of children and students.
- Doing a few things well" as a life-giving principle for personal, family, and church schedules.

1 Thessalonians 2:8

5. LEAD like Jesus; toward more and better disciples, leaders and churches

- Relational and personal in how we influence others.
- Utilizing influence through relevant subject matter, engaging art forms, and compelling personal stories.
- Our church is organized to strategically multiply disciples, leaders, and churches.

Matthew 28:19-20

Everything we do at LFC points to: JESUS

To live this out as part of our tribe, complete the Intentional Growth form that was emailed to you after week 1!

Our Vision: Acts 1:8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Our unique expression of this commandment from Jesus is:

- One More Person
- One More Church
- One More Neighborhood
- One More Leader

LFC's current expression of this vision is called



Becoming a Ministry Partner at Lake Forest Church

All those who are Christians are members of God's household (Ephesians 2:19) called to participate and minister in a particular local church. Just like a healthy body requires that each member do its part well, a church (i.e. 'body' of Christ) requires the same: members that are sacrificially committed to the well-being of the whole, ready to do the 'works of service' that God has prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 2:10; 4:12).

Lake Forest Church holds its Ministry Partners in high regard. They function as the primary missionaries of the gospel (the good news and way of life of Jesus) to the culture. God, in his goodness, placed us in this city, among these people, in this century, for a reason (Acts 17:26-27).

The global and historic church has an unhealthy track record of allowing 'members' to become spiritual spectators or church consumers, while an over-functioning small percentage do all the 'ministry' in the church and the surrounding community. Lake Forest is committed to creating a model that seeks to reflect God's heart for his children, an organic composition of hearts and hands living out the gospel with more than lip service.

Being a Ministry Partner is not a status symbol, social club, or privilege. It is about participating in the construction of a counter-cultural spiritual community for the benefit of the world. A Ministry Partner who acknowledges they are a part of the body of Christ and enters into commitment with their local church is called to a high degree of responsibility by definition. Conversely, the elders and pastors and leaders of the church are committed to assist the Ministry Partners in their communal and public ministry by providing leadership, counsel, prayer, teaching and guidance as necessary.

Take the Next Step to Loving Others

Be Intentional: Maintenance versus Development

George Barna tells us:

“Most believers who say that they want to have a deep commitment to the Christian faith, but are not involved in any intentional effort to grow spiritually, view their challenge to be one of spiritual maintenance rather than spiritual development.”

Before our next gathering, there are three things we'd like for you to think over and decide:

1. Are you ready to begin the journey as a Christ follower?
 - I already began this journey before this class.
 - As a result of time in this class, I am choosing to begin this journey.
 - I am not quite ready to take this step.
2. Would you like to partner with LFC and what God is doing here?
 - I want to become a Ministry Partner at Lake Forest Church.
 - I'd like to become an Inquiring Ministry Partner.
 - I'm not ready to become a Ministry Partner at this time.
3. What first steps into community and serving to love others will you take?
 - Place of Community
 - Place of Serving

Writing Your Story

For our next session, please complete the Ministry Partner Covenant and God Story Form that will be emailed to you, and then print out the email you receive as a receipt. We will use our time for each person to share their God story.

So that we can be clear on where your story has led you spiritually, please be sure to either begin or end your story with one of these phrases:

“I understand that through the grace of Jesus Christ and His death and resurrection, I have been reconciled to God and given eternal life. I have accepted Jesus as my Lord and my Savior by faith.”

or

“I am still on a spiritual journey and exploring the claims of Jesus Christ.”

