

## **The Church— What's in It for Me?**

The church serves an important role in the community, and in the life of an individual. Often a person's life is better and happier by associating with a group of believers in the setting of a church congregation. We'll explore the importance of belonging to a community of believers, listen to the individual and personal call to follow Jesus, and explore being involved in a congregation by participating in activities that help each person grow and serve.

## **What Happens in the Community of Christ?**

Discipleship in the Community of Christ begins with our mission statement:

**"We proclaim Jesus Christ and promote communities of joy, hope, love, and peace."**

As people search for a way to reflect this statement in their life, they will be led to individual and collective discipleship in Jesus Christ. We'll explore what disciples of Jesus are called to do as members of the Community of Christ, and understand that in the Community of Christ all people are called to share their gifts and work together with God for God's purposes.

## **The Future—What Are My Hopes and Dreams?**

People have many hopes and dreams for a better future. God provides a promise and a way to a better life through the hope of Jesus Christ. We'll identify reasons for hope and study part of God's plan for our lives and the world.

## **What Is My Role in God's Work?**

Every individual matters to God! You too! Every person makes a difference. Each one has a role to play in God's work. We'll discover and acknowledge each person's giftedness for use in God's work, and begin to discover our own sense of "calling."

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### **How Can I get started?**

Just contact us, and we'll help you get started with a First Steps group, either locally, or through the Internet.

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### **What's Next?**

Seekers and Disciples is an optional continuation of this learning and small-group experience, designed for those who are ready to move beyond "First Steps" with Jesus.

# Life is full of Questions!



- q What is God like?
- q Who is Jesus?  
How Can I feel Him?
- q How am I important?
- q What is Prayer?
- q How do I Deal with Failing & Forgiveness?
- q What is Baptism?
- q The Church – What's in it for me?
- q The Future – What are My Hopes & Dreams?
- q What is my role in God's work?

If you've ever asked yourself questions like these, and most of us have, then we'd like to help you explore the answers... The Community of Christ invites you to begin a journey with us, by taking the "First Steps" in a FREE, informal exploration of learning & friendship.

# First Steps



Community of Christ

As followers of the living Jesus Christ, we're excited to be part of a world-wide church family, who "proclaim Jesus Christ, and promote communities of Joy, Hope, Love and Peace."

Each person is on a spiritual journey – and it's often a journey that we cannot travel alone. We need each other, to help explore the complexities of relationships, our personal spiritual growth, the person-God interaction, God's plan for you and for our planet, and much more.

**First Steps** is a journey designed for you, if you are in the early stages of faith development, or if you have a desire to discover additional meaning for your life.

Our material is designed for all ages. As we share with you, either in the comfort of your own home, online with the internet, or with a small group of friends or family, we will:

- provide a safe & open opportunity for you to ask and explore the questions that you've always had about your life, church life and teachings, Jesus and Christianity, spirituality, and how they all fit in with your life;
- witness the diversity of lives that are being touched by the spirit of Jesus Christ and the ministries of His church;

- lift up the spirit of testimony, to encourage each person to recognize and share his/her story;
- provide opportunity for meaningful discussion; and
- extend an invitation to discipleship – baptism and life-long commitment to Jesus Christ, and mission in the fellowship of the Community of Christ.

Through our ten-sessions together, we will introduce and explore the following concepts:

#### **What Is God Like?**

Although we may already know some things about God, we can continue to learn by recognizing God's presence in our experiences, and in the experiences of others. In this first session, we'll begin to learn about God, and recognize that individuals understand and experience God in different ways.

#### **Who Is Jesus? How Can I Feel Him in Me?**

Jesus is "God with us," the living expression of God in the flesh. Jesus' life, ministry, death, and resurrection are avenues for understanding and connecting with God. Learning how to follow Jesus is a life-long experience. We'll describe Jesus as the foundation of Christian belief, and discover how his life can affect ours.

#### **How Am I Important?**

Each person is unique and known personally by God. We will explore how each person is important and of value to God and others.

#### **What Is Prayer?**

God seeks a relationship with each of us. Both listening to and talking with God are important parts of that connection. We'll introduce prayer, explore its many forms, and experience prayer together.

#### **How Do I Deal with Failings and Forgiveness?**

Everyone has to deal with pride, mistakes, selfishness, lying, aggressiveness, greed, and so on. These are all part of being human. It is important to recognize our shortcomings, apologize for them, and realize new growth by facing them. We'll examine the concepts of sin, being sorry, asking to be forgiven, and forgiving others.

#### **What Is Baptism?**

Baptism is one of the first steps in following Jesus. Baptism is a commitment to let God do new things in us. We'll explore the meaning and importance of baptism as a two-part process:

- § Baptism in water
- § Baptism of the Holy Spirit through confirmation