

KNOW.

LOVE.



FOLLOW.

**SALVATION &
BAPTISM**

KNOW. LOVE. FOLLOW.

**THE
HUMAN
NEED
FOR
SALVATION**

Our goal at Venture is for every person to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ that is real and growing.

That journey begins with an understanding of who God is and what He did for us.

The world began when a loving, holy God spoke it into creation. Then, He created man and woman – not because He needed us, but because He wanted us. God loved us so much that He gave us a perfect world to enjoy. He also loved us so much that He gave us a free will. He wanted us to choose to reciprocate His love through obedience. However, mankind was not satisfied – we wanted more. So, we sinned – we disobeyed the one and only command He gave us, and that disobedience made us impure. Because of the darkness in our hearts, our relationship with a perfect God was severed, and the penalty was death and eternal separation from God.

The only hope for a sin-filled human race to be restored to a perfect God was to pay a price – to buy back our purity. Mankind worked hard and tried to keep all the religious rules required for living a perfect life, making sacrifices along the way to pay for continued sin – but it was not enough. God saw a better way. Because of His love for us, He created a way for rescue and restoration that would be absolute and that would free us from the weight of unsuccessfully trying to live a perfect life in our own power. His plan was to give us the gift of a holy, righteous, and perfect sacrifice that would once and for all pay for our sins – making our hearts clean once again. This gift was His son, Jesus.

By believing what Jesus did for us and choosing to accept His sacrifice as the payment for our sins (not depending on our own efforts, works, or goodness), we receive the gift of a restored relationship with God and the promise of eternal life spent with Him.

KNOW.

Before we can accept God's gift of salvation, we must have an understanding **(KNOW)** that we are sinful and that our sin has separated us from a holy God. However, it is not enough to simply acknowledge our sin; we must also repent – confess our sinful nature to God, ask Him for forgiveness, and turn away from our sinful lifestyle.

WHAT IS SIN?

Sin is any act of disobedience against God that separates us from Him. All have sinned, and as a result, have a broken relationship with God. Without payment, the punishment for sin is eternal separation from God.

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

EPHESIANS 2:1-10 NIV

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

ROMANS 3:23 NIV

The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ROMANS 6:23 NIV

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REFLECTION

Define sin. What is sin?

Do you KNOW that you are sinful and that your sin has separated you from God?

When you acknowledge that ALL have fallen short, how does that make you feel?

What does examining your life through the lens of Romans 3:23 reveal to you about your life?

Are you ready to confess your sins? In what ways have you sinned and fallen short of God's glory?

LOVE.

In addition to knowing we have a sin problem that constitutes our need for rescue, our salvation story also begins with understanding the love of God. Our love for God is born and developed out of an awakening to His unmatched love for us. The Bible is our source for discovering God's profound love for mankind.

It is our sin that separates us from God, and it is our sin that deserves to be punished. And while God knew that the penalty for our sin was too great for us to pay, His love for us was greater. So, He provided the only solution – a flawless sacrifice to pardon our sin, redeem us from darkness, and reconcile us to God. His name is Jesus.

JESUS

God's only son, Jesus, was born to fulfill God's plan for the salvation of mankind. Jesus did what we could not. He lived a perfect, sinless human life so that we might escape eternal death and have the hope of everlasting life in Heaven with God.

Jesus traded places with us. He sacrificed His life by spilling His blood to pay for our sins and buy back our redemption to God. He died a cruel death on a cross, was buried, and three days later, He rose from the grave, overcoming the power of death!

Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin.

HEBREWS 9:22 NIV

Accepting Jesus's perfect sacrifice is the only way through which we can be reconciled to God. When we accept His gift, our sins are covered by the shedding of His blood, and we have the assurance of an eternity with God.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish, but have eternal life.

JOHN 3:16 NIV

We love because he first loved us.

1 JOHN 4:19 NIV

SALVATION

Although we chose to sin and live outside the boundaries God created, God lovingly pursues us. His desire is to reclaim us from our brokenness and repurpose us for His glory. When anyone chooses to know, love, and follow Jesus Christ, they receive His free gift of salvation. Salvation is not sin management; it is solely based on the sacrifice of Jesus. Once we confess our sins and receive the free gift of Jesus that absolves us from the penalty of our sins, we are given a new spiritual life. We begin a lifelong journey of faith – a process of growth, pruning, and transformation to become more like Jesus. This transformation is evidenced by the fruit of God’s Spirit dwelling inside of us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

ROMANS 10:9-10 NIV

There is nothing mysterious or magical about salvation. There is no perfect time, place, or scenario. It is simply recognizing that you are sinful and have a need, believing Jesus is the answer to your need, and asking to receive His gift of salvation. At any time, you can call on the name of Jesus and be saved.

Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.

ROMANS 10:13 NIV

KNOW. LOVE. FOLLOW.

REFLECTION

Is your heart awakened to God's immeasurable LOVE for you?

Do you believe that God loved you so much He sent His son, Jesus, to die for your sins? Do you believe Jesus was raised to life, conquering death, to give you a life in Heaven with God for eternity and a purpose here and now on earth?

Scripture promises that all who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved. Do you believe that?

Are you ready to ask Jesus to be the Lord of your life?

Answering the questions above, write out your own personal prayer asking to receive God's gift of salvation: *God,* _____

FOLLOW.

After accepting God’s gift of salvation and beginning a personal relationship with Jesus, we follow in His example by being baptized through immersion.

One day Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River.

MARK 1:9 NIV

That is what happened in baptism. When we went under the water, we left the old country of sin behind; when we came up out of the water, we entered into the new country of grace—a new life in a new land! That’s what baptism into the life of Jesus means. When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus. Each of us is raised into a light-filled world by our Father so that we can see where we’re going in our new grace-sovereign country.

ROMANS 6:2-5 MSG

At this time, Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. The moment he came out of the water, he saw the sky split open and God’s Spirit, looking like a dove, come down on him. Along with the Spirit, a voice: “You are my Son, chosen and marked by my love, pride of my life.”

MARK 1:9-11 MSG

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

The act of baptism can be defined as an outward expression of an inner change. Baptism is an act of public confession that we have chosen to know, love, and follow Jesus. It is also a symbol of the new life we receive when we accept God's free gift of salvation through Jesus. Baptism represents that our old life of sin is washed away, and we are raised out of the water into a new life, **RECLAIMED** by God and repurposed for His glory.

WHAT DOES BAPTISM MEAN?

Baptism illustrates Jesus's burial and resurrection. Once we have chosen to know, love, and follow Jesus Christ, baptism illustrates that our broken and sinful life has been **RECLAIMED** by God, and we have been given a new life with a new purpose to bring glory to God. (Romans 6:4; 2 Corinthians 5:17)

Baptism does not make you a Christian; baptism is a demonstration that you believe: Jesus is the Son of God; He lived a perfect life; He was crucified as a sacrifice to pay for our sin; and He was raised back to life three days later. Upon accepting God's free gift of salvation through Jesus, baptism is an act of obedience for those who choose a life defined by knowing, loving, and following Jesus Christ. It is important to understand that baptism does not "save" you. The Bible says that salvation is available to anyone who, by faith, believes in their heart that Jesus is who He says He is and confesses with their mouth that He is Lord. (Romans 10:9-11) We are "saved" only by our faith in Jesus.

WHY DO WE GET BAPTIZED?

Jesus was baptized by immersion. (Mark 1:1-11; Matthew 3:13-17) We practice baptism to follow the example Jesus gave us in scripture and because He commanded it. The Greek word "baptízō" means "to immerse or dip under water." We baptize by immersion.

As soon as you have decided to trust Jesus with your life by knowing, loving, and following Him, you can and should be baptized. If you are waiting until you are perfect, you will never be ready. (Acts 8:36-38)

KNOW. LOVE. FOLLOW.

REFLECTION

What is baptism?

What is the difference in salvation and baptism?

Why is it important to be baptized after your salvation?

RECLAIMED

If you are ready to FOLLOW Jesus in baptism, scan the QR code to notify a pastor.



SHARE YOUR STORY

Documenting your story reminds you of all God has done and equips you to tell others about Him. On the Venture Church app, click “Share Your Story,” or scan the QR code to capture your story in words!



The logo consists of a stylized cross or four-leaf clover shape. The top-left and bottom-right leaves are blue, while the top-right and bottom-left leaves are yellow.

VENTURECHURCH

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