

WORSHIP IS THE FIRST STEP

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.
(Acts 2:42)

Make regular worship a priority in your life. Worship is at the heart of your spiritual journey and your relationship with God and with other church members. Worship is somewhat like bringing your car to a filling station when its tank is nearly empty, and calling to the attendant to "fill it up." We might think of ourselves coming to worship each week needing to be filled for the miles we will cover throughout the week ahead.

God invites us to pray, praise, and give thanks knowing full well that life without God will deplete us. We need desperately to be filled with God's Holy Word, to be nourished by Christ in the Lord's Supper, and to receive support from other believers. God knows us well! God knows that worshipping together strengthens us and helps us in our daily task of loving and caring for others. Worship also prepares us to share the good news of Jesus our Lord who died and rose again for you.

PRAY!

"Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples".
(Luke 11:1)

Worship is the beginning, but it's not the full answer for those who want to grow in faith. Prayer with others at worship and privately will build and enrich your life with God. You might think of prayer as "networking" with God to discern the heart of God. Be intentional about taking time to talk with God.

Communicate with God about your life and listen, wait, and watch for God's answers. Imagine trying to maintain a relationship with someone without every communicating with that person. There would be no relationship. The same is true of our relationship with God. Don't forget to share your joys as well as your concerns. Make a commitment to support your new congregation by praying for the pastor and other staff, and for the congregational leaders.

GROW IN FAITH

But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.
(Ephesians 4:15)

Bible study can be an enriching opportunity for you. When you love someone, you want to know all about that person - his or her life, likes, and dislikes. Studying the Bible helps us to know God. The Holy Spirit works as we read and study God's Word. You will begin to grow in your knowledge of God. Your relationship with God and your desire to keep learning more will grow, too. Small groups also offer opportunities to be supported and nurtured by new friends as you study together. And a great blessing is the opportunity you have to nurture and support others in their life journeys.

If you have children, involve them in Sunday School, confirmation, and other youth activities. These programs offer young people relationships and experiences based on God's Word that will benefit them all their lives. Bring your children with you each week to demonstrate to them the importance of Bible study, worship and community with Christ at the center. The life you build with your children in activities and study at church can be special for all of you.



STAY INFORMED AND OFFER SUPPORT

*Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.
(1 Corinthians 12:27)*

Read the information that Calvary makes available, such as bulletins and newsletter. Stay informed and make concerted effort to support the staff and leaders. Keep a positive attitude about the ministry and the missions of Calvary. Negative ideas drag people and ministry down. Be willing to offer your support in constructive ways.

BE OPEN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
(Romans 15:13)*

Being a new member in a congregation can be a special time in your life. Trust the Holy Spirit to lead you into new and exciting areas. As you worship, pray, study, serve, give and support, you will discover unexpected blessings and the joy of sharing your faith with others.

USE YOUR GIFTS

Now here are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are different ways to serve, but the same Lord; (1 Corinthians 12:4-6).

Get involved! God has given you gifts - abilities, time, unique qualities, and possessions - to build up the body of Christ and to care for the whole creation. Answering God's call to ministry and discovering and using your gifts for these purposes can give joy and satisfaction to you and others. You can be sure that God has called you to use your gifts in some way. Take the initiative to offer those gifts. Being involved allows you to get to know other members and to begin to feel a part of your new congregation. Attend congregation events and offer to use your gifts to serve.

Your involvement also means financial support. God gives all things to you - your life, your daily food, the roof over your head, your friends, and your family. God gave the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ. By committing to regularly give a percentage of your income when you join Calvary, you can be helped to grow in caring for all God's gifts and to mature in faith. God asks us to give knowing that to be fulfilled, we need to give. God knows that in giving we receive blessings abundantly. The gifts of time, skills, and money that you give extend ministry beyond your congregation's membership to fulfill Christ's command to love our neighbor. Joining with others can make it possible to help carry out the many ministries God has called Calvary to be a part of.

JOINING CALVARY

Are you thinking about joining this church and wondering what to expect? Or perhaps you have already decided to join - what an exciting decision you have made!

Joining Calvary signifies that you are

- accepting God's invitation to cultivate a meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ, the head of the church;
- making a commitment to become inter-dependent with other members of the body of Christ; and
- affirming that you intend to move forward on a journey of Christian growth and service.

Most people who join a church have high hopes and expectations of what membership will mean. What about you? Do you want to find new friends here? Do you want to be an involved, active, and vital member of this congregation? Do you hope your faith will grow? What steps will you take to help your church relationship be full? Yes, it is partly up to you! A congregation can make such hopes easier to fulfill, but you have a choice. You can hang back, or you can choose to be involved and get the most out of joining this congregation.

