



BROADWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

DISCOVER GRACE: BAPTISM



Congratulations on your interest in knowing more about how to become a Christian! At Broadway we exist to *help people find hope in Christ and a home in his Church*. The first step in helping someone do that is to help them *Discover Grace*. God's grace shown to us in Jesus Christ is the foundation of what it means to be a Christian. This book is designed to walk you through the relevant Bible passages to ensure you understand the Gospel (Good News of Jesus) and how to respond.

Take your time walking through this information. Look up all the Bible verses that are listed. Thoroughly answer all the questions. Becoming a follower of Jesus is the most important decision a person could ever make and has results that last into eternity. Therefore, we want to do everything we can to help you make an informed decision.

The Gospel

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 - Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, and you still stand firm in it. It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you—unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place. I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.

What does Paul say are the three critical facts of the Good News (v. 3-4)?

Why do you think the message of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection is "most important?"

Do you welcome the Good News and want to stand firm in it (v. 1)?

Ephesians 2:1-10 - Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else. But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus. God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.





Before there can be Good News there has to be bad news. Write a few sentences to summarize the “bad news” of our spiritual condition before we become a Christian (see Ephesians 2:1-3).

According to these verses, what are some of sin’s devastating consequences? How have you personally experienced these things in your own life?

Why are we subject to God’s anger (see 2:3)?

This text says God is “rich in mercy” and that He “loves you so much.” How does this challenge (or affirm) your previously held views about God?

Why is it so important to understand that it is God’s grace that has saved us?

Explain why salvation should not be viewed as a reward for good behavior.



Notice the timing described in 2:10 - God has saved us and made us a new creation, SO THAT we can do good things. Why is it critical to get that order correct?

2 Corinthians 8:9 - You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich.

In this verse, the Gospel (Good News) of Jesus is explained in one simple sentence. Summarize the spiritual “exchange” that takes place in our lives because of Jesus.

2 Corinthians 5:17 - This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

How does it make you feel that these words will be true of you once you become a Christian?

In your own words, articulate the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

After reading these verses and answering these questions, do you feel you accurately understand the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

Yes

No





Believe

Now that you understand and can articulate the true Gospel of Jesus Christ, the next step in becoming a Christian is to fully believe the Gospel. While it is necessary to believe that the Gospel is factually true, the way the New Testament teaches to believe goes far beyond intellectual agreement. To truly follow Jesus, we must place our faith in him (trust), not just believe facts about him. This section of the Baptism Book will guide you through what it means to believe in Jesus and place your trust in him.

John 3:16 - "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

How has God shown his love to the world?

What are the benefits of believing in Jesus? What are the consequences of not believing?

John 20:31 - But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.

What does John say is the purpose for writing his account of the life of Jesus?

What do you think it means to “have life by the power of his name?”

1 John 3:23 - And this is his commandment: We must believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as he commanded us.





What are the two commandments God gives to us?

Why do you think believing in Jesus and loving one another are connected so closely?

1 John 5:1 - Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has become a child of God. And everyone who loves the Father loves his children, too.

What happens to the person who believes in Jesus?

How does it make you feel to know once you place your faith in Jesus, God makes you a child of his own?

How do you think the reality of being a son or daughter of God will change your life?

 Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile.

What is the Good News about Christ? What does it accomplish?



Romans 3:22 - We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

Why do we need to be “made right” with God?

How does someone become right with God?

Notice the connection between “placing our faith” in Jesus and “believes.” How would you define “faith?”

What does it mean to place your faith in Jesus Christ?



Romans 3:23-26 - For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.

According to verse 23, what is the universal human condition?



According to verse 24, how has God responded to the reality of our sin?

According to verse 25, what specific truths about Jesus must we believe in order to be made right with God?

Romans 10:9-10 - If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.

What is another specific truth about Jesus we must believe to be saved?

When we are saved, what is it we are “saved” from? See previous verses about sin and its consequences.

After reading these verses and answering these questions, do you feel you are ready to believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ and place your faith in Jesus?

Yes

No





Repent

Now that you are confident in your belief of the Gospel and are ready to fully place your trust in Jesus, the next step to becoming a Christian is to repent. “Repent” is a word that has been used in the past to communicate fear and induce guilt in people. However, that is not the Bible’s intention with this beautiful concept. The original Greek word translated as ‘repent’ in the New Testament literally translates as “to change the mind.” It implies a change of direction that happens in someone’s life when they come to believe the truth about Jesus. To repent simply means to change directions. While you once thought the direction your life was heading was good, now that you see the truth of the Gospel, you see that differently. While you once may have thought one way about Jesus, now that you understand the Gospel, you think differently about him. Once a person comes to know who Jesus is and what Jesus has done (the Gospel), the right response is to turn away from the old life they’ve been living and turn towards Jesus to follow him. The following passages will help guide you through understanding what it means to turn to Jesus.

Matthew 4:17 - From then on Jesus began to preach, “Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.”

From the very beginning of Jesus’ ministry, this was his message. What is the motivation Jesus gives to repent and turn to God? Why do you think that is important?

Acts 2:37-38 - Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."



This text occurs right at the end of Peter's sermon on the Day of Pentecost. This is the first Gospel sermon about the person and work of Jesus. What is the effect of Peter's sermon on his listeners?

According to verse 38, what is the first thing Peter tells them to do to respond to the truth of the Gospel? Why would this be listed as the first response?



Acts 3:19 - Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away.

What is the result of repenting (turning away from) sins?

2 Peter 3:9 - The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.

What is God's desire for everyone?

What is the consequence of not repenting?

After reading these verses and answering these questions, do you feel you are ready to turn away from the sinful life you've been living and turn towards a commitment to Jesus?

Yes

No



Confess

This section of the study will help you understand why it is so important to turn away from your old life and commit to following Jesus. To “confess” means to “say the same thing.” It implies total agreement. If a person confesses, for example, to a crime, that means they are saying the same thing as the actual events that transpired. They are agreeing with the truth. To confess Jesus as Lord means you are saying the same thing about Jesus as Jesus says about himself. It means you are agreeing Jesus really is Lord over all things. Part of what it means to become a Christian is to acknowledge the truth of Jesus’ supremacy over all things and willingly surrender to his lordship over your own life.



Romans 10:9-10 - If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.

We already looked at these verses from the perspective of ‘believe.’ The phrase “openly declare” is the translation for the word “confess.” What is the result of “openly declaring” Jesus as Lord?

What do you think is the link between belief and confession?

Matthew 16:16 - Then he asked them, "But who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

When we baptize someone at Broadway, we have him or her repeat the truths found in this verse. This serves as an act of "confession" concerning the identity of Jesus. What are the truths about Jesus' identity that we confess?



Why do you think it is important for us to “say the same thing” as the truths from this verse?

1 John 1:8-9 - If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

According to verse 8, what are we doing if we claim to be sinless?

According to verse 9, what are the promises attached to confession?

After reading these verses and answering these questions, do you feel you are ready to confess your sinfulness and agree with the truths of the identity of Jesus?

Yes

No





Baptize

The final step to becoming a Christian is the culmination of all the other steps. The New Testament presents baptism as a beautiful act of surrender to Jesus. Once a person rightly understands and believes the truths of the Gospel, places their trust in Jesus, repents of sin, and confesses Jesus as Lord, they are now ready to fully submit to Jesus and give their entire life over to him. This happens at baptism. Many have likened baptism to a wedding ceremony. There is much that happens before a couple gets married (they meet, fall in love, make their commitments, etc.) and there is much that happens after they are married. But, married couples always point to the date of their wedding ceremony as the beginning point of their marriage. There is much that must happen before we are baptized (hear the Gospel, believe in Jesus, repent of sin, confess Jesus as Lord, etc.) and there is much that must happen after we are baptized (live faithfully to Jesus, commit to growing to maturity in our new faith, etc.) but it is at baptism that our committed relationship with Jesus begins. The original Greek word used for baptism (baptizo) literally translates as “to immerse, sink a ship, or to kill someone by drowning.” Therefore, at Broadway, we only baptize by immersion. Only those who have rightly understood the Gospel, placed their trust in Jesus, repented of sin, and confessed Jesus as Lord are ready to be immersed. Therefore, at Broadway, we only baptize those who have done those things and can understand the full implications of their decision. The following verses will guide you through what baptism means for

Acts 2:37-38 - Peter’s words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

We already looked at these verses in the 'repent' section. What does Peter say are the promises attached to baptism?

▶ Acts 22:16 - What are you waiting for? Get up and be baptized. Have your sins washed away by calling on the name of the Lord.'

What does baptism accomplish?





Matthew 28:18-20 - Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

In the Great Commission we are commanded to go into the world to make disciples. According to Jesus, how does baptism tie into that task?

Romans 6:3-8 - Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives. Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was. We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him.

According to verse 3, what happens when we are baptized?

According to verses 4-5, what is the ultimate promise attached to baptism?

Colossians 2:12 - For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized.
And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty
power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.





In what ways are we united with Christ in the act of baptism?

Where are we placing our trust when we are baptized?

1 Peter 3:21 - And that water is a picture of baptism, which now saves you, not by removing dirt from your body, but as a response to God from a clean conscience. It is effective because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

What does baptism do?

What is baptism not?

What is it that makes baptism effective?



After reading these verses and answering these questions, do you feel you are ready to unite with Jesus in baptism?

Yes

No



Take Steps

2 Corinthians 5:17 - This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

If you checked “yes” on all the questions listed above, congratulations on your decision to become a Christian! Once a person has Discovered Grace, the next thing for them to do is Take Steps. Listed below are some Next Steps for you to take so you can become a Christian and begin your new life.

- Call the office (217) 235-4009 at Broadway to schedule your baptism. If you have further questions, contact Ian Stamps (istamps@broadwaycc.org), Broadway’s Lead Minister or John Mueth (jmueth@broadwaycc.org), Broadway’s Associate Minister.
- Start reading your Bible everyday to get to know God better (we recommend you start with Luke and Ephesians).
- Start praying everyday.
- Join a Group. A Group is simply a small group of people from Broadway who meet in someone’s home, at the church, etc. to study the Bible, pray together, and develop relationships. Contact Jenny Camfield (jcamfield@broadwaycc.org), Broadway’s Adult Ministry Director, for more information.
- Start serving in a ministry at Broadway. Contact Jenny Camfield for more information.
- Start faithfully giving a portion of your financial resources to Broadway in the weekly offering on Sundays. God has generously blessed us all and desires for us to be generous and bless others. Contact Amy Lawless (alawless@broadwaycc.org), Broadway’s Financial Admin for more information.

