

Session 3

Spiritual Pathways at Calvary Bible Church

Focus Competency: To know and be able to communicate clearly the Spiritual Pathway at Calvary Bible Church.

Assignments

1. Read the Scripture passages and mark the important ideas
2. Answer the Scripture questions
3. Read through the Article the Pathways of Calvary Bible Church and answer the reflection questions

Read:

John 1:19-28

19 And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" **20** He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." **21** And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." **22** So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" **23** He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight[a] the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said." **24** (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) **25** They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" **26** John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, **27** even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." **28** These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

John 3:22-30

22 After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he remained there with them and was baptizing. **23** John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized **24** (for John had not yet been put in prison). **25** Now a discussion arose between some of John's disciples and a Jew over purification. **26** And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him." **27** John answered, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. **28** You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.' **29** The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. **30** He must increase, but I must decrease."

Reflection and Questions:

- Considering the text, what do you think is the most important thing John had to accomplish?
- What ways did John help people see the next step they needed to take in their faith?

- What are some characteristics that you find helpful to John and his message of preparing the way for Jesus?
- Finally, in what ways are you pointing others to take a step towards Jesus at Calvary?

Pathways of Calvary Bible Church

At Calvary we want the clearest paths for growth. Have you ever noticed when you let Google navigate you to a new restaurant, new building, or office they give you one step at a time? They do not complicate the matter by telling you every step you need to take before you even take the first one. We desire and pray for great clarity here at Calvary. When someone wants to get connected to our church family, we want the steps to be visible and clear. So here is the pathway.

Starting Point- Starting Point is a one-hour event designed to help people, new to Calvary, connect with the staff of Calvary. In this hour, new attendees hear about what happens inside and outside the walls of the church along with what we consider mission critical info. We also communicate the next steps for someone to take at Calvary, which is jumping into Basecamp. Above all, we have designed Starting Point to show that Jesus is everything to us at Calvary.

Basecamp- Basecamp is a 10-week experience where the participants discover what we believe about God, Jesus, the Bible, and our doctrine. This is an introduction to our mission of “building a biblical community on mission” as they regularly meet, serve, share, and pray with a community of others who want to grow in their faith. In the 10-weeks we desire each Basecamp to become a New LifeGroup.

Membership- The difference between “attenders” and “members” can be summed up in one word: commitment. When you become a Member at Calvary, you become a member of a community of people who are fully devoted to being all that glorifies God. We never ask our members to do more than the Bible clearly teaches. We only expect our members to do what the Bible expects every Christian to do. By joining in Membership and signing the Covenant, you are agreeing, by the grace of God, to live up to the standard of God’s Word. It is the role of every member and Church Leader to help other members toward this end. There are no perfect people at Calvary! Only people passionate about pursuing God with full devotion. When a Member persists in sin or is living in a manner contrary to the teaching of God’s Word, it is the responsibility of other members, and the church leadership, to lovingly admonish and restore that Member to the Lord.

Serve- We believe Serving is one of the major steps of discipleship in following Jesus. The community at Calvary needs everyone’s spiritual gift to help each other grow in maturity. Serving is also a great way to be known and to know others who share in the Great Commission.

Reflection and Questions

- Now knowing the Pathways at Calvary, what steps have you taken? What steps do you need to take to complete the Pathways?
- Why do you think distinct Pathways are critical?
- Think about those you know at Calvary, who do you think you could invite into taking their next step at Calvary? Write their name down and establish a timeline for asking this individual to take the next step.