

# Discovering Forest Park



*Revised January 2015*

# Welcome to Discovering Forest Park

We're glad you've chosen to find out more about Forest Park! This class is the basic introduction to our church family. Since we have members from many different backgrounds, this class was designed to clearly explain who and what our church is.

## The Basis for This Class

*...You are a member of God's very own family...and you belong in God's household with every other Christian.*

*-Ephesians 2:19 (LB)*

### Key Truths

1. The church is a family.
2. God expects you to be a \_\_\_\_\_ of a church family.
3. Being part of a local church is essential to following God's Word.

## The Goal of This Class

That I will commit myself to Jesus and to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus.

# Part One: Our Salvation

*For now we are all children of God through faith in Jesus Christ, and we who have been baptized into union with Christ are enveloped by Him. We are no longer Jews or Gentiles, or slaves or free men, or even merely men or women, but we are all the same—we are Christians; we are one in Jesus Christ.*

*-Galatians 3:26-28 (LB)*

## What Does It Mean to Be a Christian?

Most people live their entire lives without ever knowing “Why?” They exist year after year with no idea of why they live or God’s purpose for their lives. The most basic question a person can ask is, “What is the meaning of life?”

**Everyone wants to be happy. People try many ways.**

Some look for happiness by acquiring possessions.

Some look for happiness by experiencing pleasure.

Some look for happiness by gaining prestige and power.

**Real happiness comes from a right relationship with**

---

*Jesus said, “I have come in order that you might have life—life in all its fullness!”  
-John 10:10*

## Benefits of Knowing and Loving God

**Clear Conscience**

*Romans 8:1*

**Life and Peace**

*Romans 8:6*

**Help with Weakness**

*Romans 8:26*

**Purpose**

*Romans 8:28*

**Confidence**

*Romans 8:31*

**Security**

*Romans 8:39*

**Power and Strength**

*Philippians 4:13*

**Fulfillment**

*Philippians 4:19*

**Freedom**

*John 8:32,36*

## What Is the Problem?

We have a natural desire to be \_\_\_\_\_ and to ignore God's principles for living.

The Bible calls this sin.

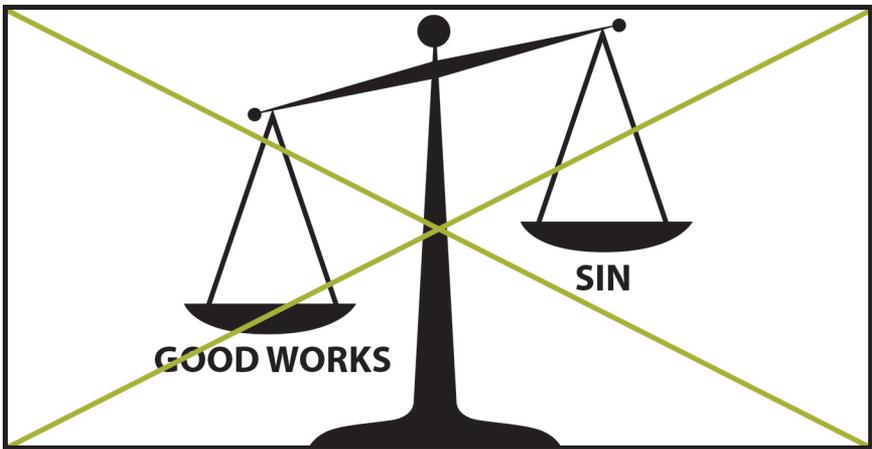
When our relationship with God is not right, it causes problems in every area of our lives—marriage, career, relationships, finances, etc.

Even when we know that our deepest need is God, we often try wrong ways of getting to know Him.

"My mother was a Christian, so I'm a Christian."

"It doesn't matter what you believe as long as you are sincere."

"I'll live a good life."



## What Is the Solution?

*Jesus Christ said, "I AM THE WAY, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except THROUGH ME."*

*-John 14:6*

Jesus did not say, "I point the way to God." He said, "I AM the way to God." The way to heaven is not through a religion. The way to heaven is through a person.

## How to Receive God's Forgiveness and Life

1. \_\_\_\_\_ that God has not been first place in your life and ask Him to forgive your sins.

*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from every wrong.*

-1 John 1:9

2. Believe that Jesus died to pay for your sins and that He rose again.

*If you confess that Jesus is your Lord, and you believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*

-Romans 10:9

3. \_\_\_\_\_ God's free gift of salvation. Don't try to earn it.

*For it is by grace you are saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the free gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.*

-Ephesians 2:8-9

Our relationship to God is not restored by anything we do, but on the basis of what Jesus already did for us!

4. Invite Jesus Christ to come into your life and be the director ("Lord") of your life.

*To all who receive Him, He gives the right to become children of God. All we need to do is to trust Him to save us. All those who believe this are reborn!—not a physical rebirth...but from the will of God!*

-John 1:12-13

*Jesus says, "Listen! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in..."*

-Revelation 3:20

**You can take these steps by praying a simple prayer of commitment to God:**

"Heavenly Father, thank you for loving me in spite of my sin. I need You in my life. I repent; I turn away from my sin. Please forgive me. I believe Jesus died on the cross and rose from the grave. I want to follow Him from now on. Come into my life and make me a new person inside. And help me to grow in my faith."

*Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord, will be saved.*

-Romans 10:13

# The Importance of Being Baptized

## Why Should I Be Baptized?

1. To follow the example set by \_\_\_\_\_.

*At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river.*  
-Mark 1:9

2. Because Christ commands it.

*Jesus said, "Go then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciples, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and then teach them to obey everything I have commanded you."*  
-Matthew 28:19-20

## What Is the Meaning of Baptism?

1. It illustrates Christ's burial and resurrection.

*...Christ died for our sins...He was buried....and He rose again.*  
-Matthew 3:16

*For when you are baptized, you were **buried** with Christ, and in baptism you were also **raised** with Christ.*

-Colossians 2:12

2. It illustrates my \_\_\_\_\_ as a Christian.

*When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun!*

-2 Corinthians 5:17

Baptism doesn't make you a believer—it shows that you already believe. Baptism does not "save" you, only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring—it's the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart.

*For it is by grace you have been saved, **through faith**...it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.*

-Ephesians 2:8-9

## Why Be Baptized by Immersion?

1. Because \_\_\_\_\_ was baptized that way.

*As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water.*

-Matthew 3:16

2. Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion.

*Example: ...then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water...*

-Acts 8:38-39

*Now John was also baptizing at Aenon near Salim, **because there was plenty of water**, and people were constantly coming to be baptized.*

-John 3:23

3. The word *baptize* means to “\_\_\_\_\_ water.”

The Greek word *baptizo* means, “to immerse or dip under water.”

4. It best symbolizes a burial and resurrection!

The founders of denominations agree:

**Martin Luther** - “I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the Word imports and the mystery signifies.”

**John Calvin** - “The word *baptize* signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church.”

**John Wesley** - “Buried with Him, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church.”

**At Forest Park, it is a membership requirement that every member must have been baptized the way Jesus demonstrated, even though many of us were “confirmed” as children.**

## When Should I Be Baptized?

As soon as you have believed!

*Those who believed...were baptized...that day!*

-Acts 2:41

## The Meaning of the Lord's Supper

### What Is the Lord's Supper? (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

It is a \_\_\_\_\_ of the death of Jesus.

*...and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; eat it in remembrance of me."*

-1 Corinthians 11:24

### Who Should Take the Lord's Supper? (Mark 14:22-26)

Only those who are already believers.

*For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment upon himself.*

-1 Corinthians 11:29

## Part Two: The Forest Park Statements

*Let there be real harmony among you so there won't be any split in the church. I plead with you to be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.*

-1 Corinthians 1:10 (LB)

### Our Vision

**Our vision is helping people take their next step toward God.**

### Our Mission

**We worship. We grow. We serve.**



## We Worship

WORSHIP: Expressing LOVE to God

*"...the Father seeks worshipers...and His worshipers must worship Him in spirit and in truth."*

-John 4:23-24

### Expressions of Worship:

Singing (*Ephesians 5:19*)

Commitment (*Romans 12:1-2*)

Praying (*Psalms 95:6*)

Hearing the Word (*John 17:17*)

Giving (*1 Corinthians 16:1-2*)

Baptism (*Romans 6:3-4*)

Meditating (*Habakkuk 2:20*)

Lord's Supper (*1 Corinthians 11:23-26*)

*He went to Nazareth, where He had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day He went into the synagogue, as was His custom.*

-Luke 4:16

*Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

-Hebrews 10:25

God wants us to have daily private worship and weekend public worship.

*Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.*

-Joshua 1:8

We ask every member to commit to a regular weekend worship service just like Jesus did. We also challenge you to bring people with you who need to grow in their faith.

## **We Grow**

One of the best ways to grow is to get around other \_\_\_\_\_ who are growing.

### **Two types of church meetings:**

Large Group - Celebration

Small Group - Fellowship

### **Advantages of LifeGroup Bible Studies**

1. You can develop some amazing friendships.
2. You can learn how to follow Jesus at a deeper level.
3. You can get answers to your questions.
4. You can get and give support in times of need.
5. You can be held accountable for your spiritual development.
6. Your character will grow.

Remember, LifeGroups aren't just Bible studies. They are growing by doing life together.

### **How Do I Find a LifeGroup?**

Every campus has an Information Desk in the Lobby with information about LifeGroups. You can also find more information on our website at [forestpark.tv/lifegroups](http://forestpark.tv/lifegroups).

*\*\*\*If you put your email address on your membership application, we will send you a link to sign up to get free access to a huge online library of discipleship resources through the Right Now video library.*

## We Serve

The heartbeat of Forest Park is our \_\_\_\_\_.

Every member needs to be a part of one.

*Now God gives us many kinds of special abilities...and there are different kinds of service to God (ministry)...All of you together form the one Body of Christ and each of you is a separate and necessary part of it.*

-1 Corinthians 12:4-5,27(LB)

### At Forest Park:

Every member is a \_\_\_\_\_.

Every task is important.

Every member is a "10" in some area.

### Two kinds of service:

Serving people in the family of God (as individuals)

Serving people outside the family of God (through LifeGroups)

## Our Statement of Faith

### What We Believe

In essential beliefs we have \_\_\_\_\_.

*There is one Body and one Spirit...there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of us all...*

-Ephesians 4:4-6

In non-essential beliefs we have liberty.

*Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters...Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls...So then each of us will give an account of himself to God... So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God.*

-Romans 14:1,4,12,22

In all our beliefs we show charity.

*...if I hold in my mind not only all human knowledge but also the very secrets of God, and if I have the faith that can move mountains—but have **no love**, I amount to nothing at all.*

-1 Corinthians 13:2 (Ph)

## The Essentials We Believe

God is bigger and better and closer than we can imagine.

The Bible is God's perfect guidebook for living.

Jesus is God showing Himself to us.

Through His Holy Spirit, God lives in and through us now.

Nothing in creation "just happened." God made it all.

Grace is the only way to have a relationship with God.

Faith is the only way to grow in our relationship with God.

God has allowed evil to provide us with a choice. God can bring good even out of evil events, and God promises victory over evil to those who choose Him.

Heaven and hell are real places. Death is a beginning, not the end.

The church is to serve people like Jesus served people.

Generous giving shows that God is first place in our lives.

Jesus is coming again.

We believe that minor doctrinal differences have divided Christians for too long. We don't have to agree on every point to love each other and serve God together.

## Other Basic Beliefs

### About God

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three personalities: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God.

*Genesis 1:1,26,27; Genesis 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19  
1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14*

### About Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again someday to earth to reign as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

*Matthew 12:22, 23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5; John 14:10:30  
Hebrews 4:14-15; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Romans 1:3-4  
Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14-15; Titus 2:13*

### About the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer a spiritual gift when they are saved. As Christians, we seek to live under His control daily.

*2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13; John 14:16-17; Acts 1:8  
1 Corinthians 2:12; 1 Corinthians 3:16; Ephesians 1:13  
Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:18*

### About the Bible

The Bible is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is the truth without any mixture of error.

*2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 1:13  
Psalm 119:105, 160; Psalm 12:6; Proverbs 30:5*

## About Human Beings

People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. People are the supreme object of God's creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin." This attitude separates people from God and causes many problems in life.

*Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1-2*

## About Salvation

Salvation is God's free gift to us, but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith, we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith.

*Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 14:6; John 1:12*

*Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1*

## About Eternal Security

Because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the true believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. If you have been genuinely saved, you cannot "lose" it. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives us this security.

*John 10:29; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25*

*Hebrews 10:10-14; 1 Peter 1:3-5*

## About Eternity

People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence.

*John 3:16; John 14:17; Romans 6:23; Romans 8:17-18*

*Revelation 20:15; 1 Corinthians 2:7-9*

It is not mandatory that your beliefs match up with everything our church believes. But if you join our church, it's important that you not teach anything contrary to our core beliefs.

## Our Core Values

**Evangelism:** Lost people matter to God so they matter to us.

**Grace:** We love people when they least expect it.

**Sacrifice:** We give up what we love for what we love even more.

**Simplicity:** We do less so we can accomplish more.

**Excellence:** Doing our best honors God.

**Innovation:** The Gospel never changes, but our strategy for sharing it with our culture does.

**Unity:** We don't have to agree on every point to love each other and serve God together.

# Part Three: The Forest Park Strategy

*I have been all things to all sorts of people that by every possible means I might win some to God. I do all of this for the sake of the Good News.*

*-1 Corinthians 9:22-23 (Ph)*

## Who We Are Trying to Reach

Rather Be in a  
Large Group  
Than a Small One

Skeptical of  
Organized  
"Religion"



Prefer Casual  
Over Formal

Short Attention Span  
(They Channel Surf)

*Yes, whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him.*

*-1 Corinthians 9:22 (LB)*

## Four Circles of Commitment



Forest Park's objective is to keep moving people toward the center by encouraging personal spiritual commitments.

# The FOREST PARK Strategy

## 10 Principles That Make Our Church Unique

### Friendly LifeGroups

*Every day in the temple, and in people's homes they continued to teach and preach the Good News.*

-Acts 5:42

### One Church in Multiple Locations

*I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.*

-1 Corinthians 9:22

### Reaching Out by Investing, Inviting and Involving (i<sup>3</sup>)

I invest in loving relationships with outsiders.

I invite people to be my guest at church.

I involve new attenders in my LifeGroup and place of service.

### Every Member a Minister

*In Christ, we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts according to the grace given us.*

-Romans 12:5-6

### Simple Process for Developing Disciples

A simple process (worship, grow, serve) has these advantages:

1. Less burnout of volunteers and staff
2. More money for key programs
3. More excellence in what we do
4. More commitment because people "get it"
5. More growth as a church

### Targeted Toward Reaching People Who Don't Know God

### Purposefully Balanced

We want to worship, grow and serve and to keep them all in balance.

### Authentic Leadership

### Relevant Preaching and Teaching Directed Toward Changing Lives

*Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.*

-James 1:22

### Keep the Structure Simple

*You can't pour new wine in old wineskins.*

-Luke 5:37

# Part Four: The Forest Park Structure

*For God is not a God of disorder, but of peace... Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.*

*-1 Corinthians 14:33,40*

## How Our Church Is Structured

The structure of the church should *not* be determined by culture, business practices or denominational traditions.

The nature of the church determines its structure.

### 1. The church is a \_\_\_\_\_.

*They continued steadily learning the teaching of the apostles, and joined in the fellowship...*

*-Acts 2:42 (Ph)*

A top priority in a fellowship is harmony and unity.

*Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*

*-Ephesians 4:3*

Any attitude that causes disunity is a sin.

*Colossians 3:15; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 2 Timothy 2:14; Proverbs 17:14; 2 Corinthians 13:11; Philippians 1:27; Philippians 2:1-3; Colossians 2:2; Philippians 4:2; 1 Peter 3:8; 1 Corinthians 14:33; John 13:34-35; 2 Timothy 2:23; Romans 15:5-6; Romans 12:16-18; Colossians 3:13-14; Psalm 133:1*

Implication: A good structure promotes unity and downplays differences.

*...(Often) your meetings do more harm than good because I hear that you come together as a church, there are divisions among you...*

*-1 Corinthians 11:17-18*

Voting tends to create division.

## 2. The church is a \_\_\_\_\_.

*1 Peter 3:8; Galatians 6:10; Hebrews 2:10-12; 1 Peter 4:17*

So we operate on the basis of relationships, not rules.

*Don't reprimand a senior member of the church, appeal to him as a **father**. Treat the young men as brothers, and the older women as **mothers**. Treat the younger women as **sisters**...*

*-1 Timothy 5:1-2 (Ph)*

## 3. The church is a \_\_\_\_\_.

*1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 5:23; Ephesians 1:22-23;  
Colossians 1:18; Colossians 2:19*

Therefore, we function on the basis of spiritual gifts, not elected offices.

At Forest Park we have a simple structure so we can maximize ministry and minimize maintenance.

*God gave...some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for **works of ministry**, so that the body of Christ may be built up...*

*-Ephesians 4:11-12*

### **Our Structure**

The people are the ministers. The pastors are the administrators.

There are dozens of ministries in our church operated by members.

## 4. The church is a \_\_\_\_\_.

*John 10:1-30; Matthew 26:31; Matthew 25:33*

Therefore, it is cared for and led by shepherds.

*To the elders I say...**Be shepherds** of God's flock, serving as overseers...*

*-1 Peter 5:1-2*

## Our Affiliation

**The Southern Baptist Convention is the largest association of Christian churches in America.**

40,000 churches and 15 million members

**The SBC is a highly diverse association of churches.**

SBC churches include every race, nationality and ethnic group. Each Sunday, services are held in over 80 languages in the U.S.

**The SBC is a group that helps a lot of people come to know Christ.**

The SBC baptizes over **1,000 new Christians and five new churches a day** in the U.S. We support more than 10,000 missionaries serving all over the world.

**Why not just be an independent church?**

*We are* an independent church! Every SBC church is completely independent. There is no denominational control. Every SBC church chooses its own pastor, owns its own buildings, and determines its own programs.

## A Brief History of Forest Park

In 1846, God moved in the hearts of 23 frontier farmers to start a church. We built a small log cabin for worship on Shoal Creek and elected William Farmer to be the first pastor. During the Civil War era, the church building burned down—twice! In 1884, God led us to move to Joplin where we purchased land on Range Line across from what is today the North Park Mall. We changed our name from the Shoal Creek Baptist Church to Forest Park.

In 1948, we relocated to 7<sup>th</sup> and Range Line. The church experienced great growth under the leadership of Thurman Kelly, who was our pastor for more than 30 years. After a church split in the late 1970s, our members voted to abolish committees and be a staff-led church. Free from politics and bureaucracy, Forest Park flourished and had a much greater impact on our community and world.

John Swadley has been our Lead Pastor since 1996. Forest Park Carthage launched in August 2007 as a way for our members living in that area to better reach out to their neighbors. Forest Park North launched in September of 2009 as an outreach to the Carl Junction, Webb City, and north Joplin areas.

## What It Means to Be a Member

The difference between “attenders” and “members” can be summed up in one word: \_\_\_\_\_.

At Forest Park we recognize the need for a formal membership. We ask you to commit to membership for four reasons.

### 1. A Biblical Reason: Christ Is Committed to the Church

*...Christ loved the church, and He gave His life for it.*

*-Ephesians 5:25*

### 2. A Cultural Reason: It Is an Antidote to Our Society

We live in an age where very few want to be committed to anything—a job, a marriage, our country. This attitude has even produced a generation of “church shoppers and hoppers.” Membership swims against selfishness. Commitment always builds character.

### 3. A Practical Reason: It Defines Whom We Can Count On

Every team must have a roster. Every school must have an enrollment. Every business has a payroll. Every army has an enlistment. Even our country takes a census and requires voter registration. Membership identifies our family.

### 4. A Personal Reason: It Produces Spiritual Growth

The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Christians to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth. You cannot be accountable when you’re not committed to any specific church family.

### What is expected of me as a member?

At Forest Park we never ask our members to do more than the Bible clearly expects every Christian to do. These responsibilities are spelled out in the Membership Covenant.

## The Forest Park Membership Covenant

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and been baptized, and being in agreement with Forest Park’s statements, strategy and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Forest Park church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

## 1. I will protect the unity of my church...

...by acting in love toward other members.

...by refusing to gossip.

...by following the leaders.

*So let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony, and on the growth of our fellowship together.*

-Romans 15:19 (Ph)

*Have a sincere love for your fellow believers, love one another earnestly with all your hearts.*

1 Peter 1:22 (GN)

*Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be no advantage to you.*

-Hebrews 13:17

## 2. I will support the vision of our church...

...by attending a weekly worship service.

...by growing with other believers in a LifeGroup.

...by serving in a ministry.

*Let us not give up the habit of meeting together..but let us encourage one another.*

-Hebrews 10:25

*Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ...who took on the very nature of a servant...*

Philippians 2:3-4,7

*Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you...*

-1 Peter 4:10 (Ph)

## What Is Next?

Fill out both sides of the membership application (the last page of this booklet), tear it out, and give it to your campus pastor. He will help you complete the membership process and answer any questions you have. You will also want to find a LifeGroup and a place to serve. We are praying that your relationship with God reaches new heights as you keep taking your next steps toward God at Forest Park.

# We'd Like to Get to Know You

Please fill out both sides and return to your campus pastor.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Male  Female Date of Birth: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Single  Married

My occupation is: \_\_\_\_\_

Business: \_\_\_\_\_

I have the following expertise: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I have not been active in a church for:  1 Year  5 Years  10 Years

I am currently involved in a LifeGroup.

I want to get involved in a LifeGroup.

I have been active in the following churches in the past:

Church Name Position of Service

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How would you describe your relationship to Christ?

Agnostic  I'm not sure what I believe.

New Christian  Committed Christian  \_\_\_\_\_

I've been a Christian for a while, but I need to grow closer to God.

## Information of Family Members

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Does your spouse attend Forest Park? \_\_\_\_\_

Children

First Name Last Name Birth Date Lives with You? Attends FP?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Check the box(es) of the children who are baptized believers who want to join Forest Park with you.*

# Membership Application

## Forest Park Baptist Church

### Four Requirements

**Have you committed your life to Jesus Christ and trusted Him for your salvation?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_  
When? \_\_\_\_\_ Where? \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, during this class

**Have you been baptized by immersion (under water) after you committed your life to Christ?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_  
When? \_\_\_\_\_ Where? \_\_\_\_\_

I want to be baptized at Forest Park.

**Have you completed Discovering Forest Park?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you desire to abide by the Forest Park Membership Covenant?**

Yes, I do! \_\_\_\_\_  
Please sign your name and date.

## Welcome to Our Family!

To be completed by Forest Park Representative

**Desires Membership at Forest Park Baptist Church By:**

- Profession of faith and believers' baptism
- Believers' baptism (has previously accepted Christ)
- Baptism scheduled for (date): \_\_\_\_\_

To be baptized at which campus:  Joplin  Carthage  North

Saturday 6:00 pm  Sunday 9:30 am

Sunday 10:50 am  Sunday 11:00 am

Letter from (name of church): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Statement

Associate Member

Forest Park Representative: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**FOREST PARK**

worship • grow • serve

forestpark.tv

**Forest Park Joplin**

725 S Highview Ave  
Joplin, MO 64801  
417-623-4606

**Forest Park Carthage**

2535 S Grand Ave  
Carthage, MO 64836  
417-358-9955

**Forest Park North**

5898 N Main St #101  
Joplin, MO 64801  
417-623-2199