

Step ONE About Calvary

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

MATTHEW 9:36-38



WELCOME TO ON-RAMP

For years, when I heard the word "church", I thought of a building. Specifically, the red-bricked building my family took me to several times a week as we gathered for church. When I think back on that time it isn't the building that I remember, it's the people. The people I worshiped with, the people who taught me, the people who encouraged me, the people I served with. The church isn't a building, the church is a family.

At Calvary, we do consider our church a family. A family with a mission to point people to Jesus by *Demonstrating* God's love, *Declaring* the Good News of His Gospel, and making *Disciples* near and far. If God is leading you to be part of this family, and we hope he is, we want to invite you to join us on the mission God has given us.

During the next four sessions, we will help you discover who Calvary is, who you are, the possibilities for your place in the church family, and how you can make a difference in the world. This is the On-Ramp to being fully connected to Calvary. We pray that it will be a blessing and look forward to having you as part of the Calvary family.

Stephen Heleman

Lead Pastor





A four-step approach to understanding what it means to be a member of the Calvary family and how to begin serving Jesus by DEMONSTRATING God's Love, DECLARING the Good News, and Making DISCIPLES near and far.



Step ONE – ABOUT CALVARY

Explore the ministry of Calvary Baptist Church and find out who we are, our mission, beliefs, and vision. Learn what it means to be a member of the Calvary family.



Step TWO - DISCOVER YOUR GIFTS

Discover your gifts, identify your skills, and see how your design reveals your purpose and potential for ministry.



Step THREE - CONNECT TO CALVARY

Connect to opportunities available for ministry at Calvary. Live out your purpose to serve God by serving others using your gifts, talents, and skills.



Step FOUR - CONNECT TO OUR WORLD

Discover how you can impact lives across the street and around the world with simple tools and strategies, fulfilling the purposes of Calvary and the greater body of Christ.



Step ONE About Calvary

WHO IS CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH?

- What is Calvary's mission, strategy, and core values?
- What do members of Calvary believe about God and the Bible?
- What is Calvary's vision for the future and how does one become a member?

Welcome to **Step ONE** of the On-Ramp series – *About Calvary*.

Our MISSION

@ Calvary Baptist Church We Point People To Jesus By:

_____ God's Love,

_____ the Good News of His Gospel, and

Making _____ Near and Far.

Matthew 22:37-40; Matthew 16:15-18; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8



Our **STRATEGY** is a 4G Philosophy:

0	Spend Time With
1	With Our Church Family
Q	Connect In
※	Our Best To God's Kingdom

Learn more about 4G on page 20.

OUR **VALUES**

We understand and demonstrate this mission in the context of five *CORE VALUES* which define, guide, and focus our ministry:

• A Commitment to ______.

The authority for all we do originates from the infallible and inerrant Word of God. We commit ourselves to its teaching, to demonstrate what it says, and to allow ourselves to be transformed by its truth.

Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Timothy 4:13; Proverbs 30:5; Deuteronomy 12:32; Psalm 119:105; Joshua 1:7-8

• A Foundation of ______.

All we do must have a foundation of prayer. Without prayer, there is no reason to anticipate the demonstration of the Holy Spirit's power and presence in our ministry.

Philippians 4:4-7; Romans 8:26-28; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Matthew 6:9-13; Colossians 4:2-4; Psalm 145:18

Five Core Values Continued:

• _____ People to Follow Jesus.

The conviction that Jesus Christ is the only way of salvation compels us to spread the Gospel in our local communities and to the ends of the earth. We strive to make disciples of all people as they grow in their relationship with God.

Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23; Matthew 5:16; John 3:16; 1 Timothy 1:15; Matthew 4:19; Matthew 28:18-20; John 15:16; Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:11-16

• A _____ Where All People Are Embraced and Belong.

We believe we are meant to live our faith in community. This is demonstrated through our small groups as well as how we welcome and embrace all people. Calvary is a community where all people can find a place to belong.

1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Hebrews 11:24-25; Ephesians 4:1-6; 1 John 4:7-12; Philippians 2:1-6; Ephesians 2:19-22

 A Passion for Strong Congregational and Individual

Our congregational worship seeks to honor God while drawing people into an awareness of His presence. We also strive to honor God in all we do, living a life of love and sacrificial worship.

Psalm 29:1-11; Psalm 100:1-5; 1 Chronicles 16:23-31; Romans 12:1-2; John 4:21-24; Hebrews 12:28-29

ASSOCIATIONS

Denominationally, Calvary Baptist Church is an autonomous _____ member of:

• The Bluebonnet Baptist Association
Bluebonnet Baptist Association is a cooperative group of churches in the Austin - San Antonio region of Texas. Our mission and sole reason we exist is to assist churches in carrying out their Great Commission responsibilities and helping them reach their full potential in Christ. (bluebonnetbaptist.org)

• The Southern Baptists Of Texas Convention
The SBTC exists to facilitate, extend and enlarge the Great
Commission ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention
and Southern Baptist churches and associations of Texas,
upon the authority of God's inerrant Word to the glory of
God the father, under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, and by
the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. (sbtexas.com)

• The Southern Baptist Convention
For almost 175 years, Southern Baptists have sought to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people everywhere. The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) has grown to be a network of more than fifty thousand cooperating churches and church-type missions banded together to make an impact for God's Kingdom. (sbc.net)

Missions Organizations
 Calvary partners with the International Mission Board and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, the North American Mission Board and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, and the SBTC Reach Texas offering.

A BIT OF CALVARY'S HISTORY

Calvary Baptist Church was established on September 2, 1971, by a small group of Baptists who felt a strong commitment to the Great Commission. In 1977 the present site in Bastrop was purchased and the first service was held on September 17, 1978.



Calvary's early ministries included medical outreach and evangelism at the US/Mexico border, along with a dedication to reaching young families and children at home in Bastrop County. Several building projects would provide much needed additional space for children's and youth ministries.

To facilitate added growth on campus, in 2017 the existing building was renovated to host adult groups and the ever-expanding children and student ministries. Additionally, a new auditorium was built to host multiple Sunday services with classic and modern worship styles. In October of 2018, Calvary's Spanish language service, *Calvario*, was launched.

Outreach and missions have remained a central focus as Calvary has continued to be one of the most giving churches in the state both denominationally and as a disaster relief center. In addition to several local and state mission affiliates, international mission partnerships are developing to focus on unengaged and unreached people groups.

Today, Calvary's vision for local kingdom growth is focused towards outreach and multi-campus expansion. This began in earnest with the launch of the Smithville campus in 2020.

The future may bring many changes, but God's word remains the same and Calvary Baptist Church will continue to point people to Jesus by *Demonstrating* God's Love, *Declaring* The Good News Of His Gospel, And Making *Disciples* Near And Far.



ON-RAMP Step 1

WHAT WE BELIEVE

• In Essential Beliefs — We Have _____ (Ephesians 4:4-6)

• In All Our Beliefs – We Show _____ (1 Corinthians 13:2)

Calvary Baptist Church is a Christian church, so we look to the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Bible for the foundation of what we believe. Here is a look into some of our **ESSENTIAL BELIEFS**:

About God

There is one and only one living and true God. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

About God the Father

God, as Father, reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace.

About God the Son

Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ, He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin.

About God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

About the Scriptures

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter.

About Salvation

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense, salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord

About the Church

A New Testament church is a local autonomous body of believers who are associated by their common faith and fellowship with Jesus Christ. It is the desire of every member to protect the unity, share the responsibility, serve the ministry, and support the life of the church.

About Evangelism

It is the responsibility of every Christian to share the Good News with those whom God has brought us into contact. We practice personally sharing about Christ and inviting friends to church.

If you have any questions, feel free to talk with any of our pastors or deacons. For a more thorough examination of our beliefs, visit...

www.cbcfamily.net/beliefs.html

HOW IS CALVARY ORGANIZED?

Calvary is an autonomous and democratic church operating under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and leadership of the Holy Spirit. Every member plays a part, and some are chosen to manage the parts. Calvary is controlled by no other outside entity, but we recognize and sustain mutual counsel and cooperation among like-minded churches through organizations such as: The Bluebonnet Baptist Association, Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, International Mission Board, and other local and international ministries.

Matters of direction, doctrine and discipline are led by the Church Council, with the Lead Pastor as the Chairman. The Council may recruit and establish teams and delegate authority to qualified individuals to assist in their duties. The Church Council and all Church Officers are responsible to ensure transparency in the management of church business and to regularly inform the Church Body of important issues and decisions.

VOTING:

Each member, age 17 and older, is entitled to one vote, and a simple majority shall prevail in deciding all business, unless otherwise provided for in the Church Constitution and By-Laws. Specific items requiring a vote are available upon request.



CHURCH OFFICERS AND THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES:

- The Lead Pastor and Pastoral Staff lead church vision, preaching and teaching, and equipping members for ministry. The Lead Pastor oversees the church staff and Deacon Body.
- The Church Council is responsible for the overall direction and spiritual vision of the church. They work with the Lead Pastor to lead and oversee the church. They ensure all business is conducted with transparency, recommend members to fill officer positions, present discipline issues to the church, determine theological positions, and work with the Management Team. Council members serve three-year renewable terms as elected by the church membership.
- The Deacon Body cares for the physical and spiritual needs of the membership. They protect the unity of the church, oversee benevolence and visitation ministries, assist in administration of ordinances, and pray and counsel with members. Deacons serve three-year renewable terms as elected by the church membership.
- The Management Team cares for the monetary and physical resources of the church, including procedures, budget development, and assisting in all areas of finance, facilities, legal, non-pastoral personnel, and technology.
- The Trustees are the legal representatives of the church as required by the State.

4G @CALVARY



It's important that we GATHER as a church family. Still, God has so much more for us! He wants us to take what He's teaching and apply it to our lives and share it with others. This is the heart of our 4G philosophy, strategy, and our 4G Guides.

These guides are written to encourage you to spend personal time with GOD and to connect in GROUPS. They help you understand and apply what God is saying, allowing you to take what God is teaching and GIVE your best to God's Kingdom.





4G GUIDES

Each sermon series has its own 4G Guide which is weekly divided into four sections and freely available at each gathering.

: The sermon notes for each week
are included in the guides for your convenience.

0	: Personal worship and Bible study
	is vital to the Christian walk. Therefore, there are five short
	daily devotionals for each weekly topic.

O				: W	e learn	from	each oth	er! 4G
•	Groups	meet	to di	g deep	er into	the	Gathering	g Time
	message	es and	apply v	what is	learned.	. Ever	yone is inv	ited to
	lead a 4	4G gro	up wit	h their	family o	or frie	ends. Our	staff is
	ready to	assist	you.					

					: Fam	nily wor	ship	glorifies	God. To
•		you	get	started,	the	guide	has	simple,	weekly
devotionals just for fam					ies.				

GIVE THROUGH GROUPS

At Calvary we not only have large celebrative worship, but also smaller **GROUP** application of God's word for all ages. *Groups@Calvary* take on three main identities:

- 4G Groups. 4G Groups meet regularly to specifically utilize the resources provided in our 4G Guides. Everyone is encouraged to be part of a 4G Group.
- Topical Bible Study Groups. These groups typically meet Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings at Calvary, but many also meet on other days and at other community locations to learn about and discuss specific books or topics of the Bible.
- Online Connect Groups. Meeting online, these groups meet to share a brief devotional, pray for one another, and stay connected in a busy world.

Note: Many of our "in-person" groups also have online options for those unable to meet in person.

Groups@Calvary are where we live out our mission to point people to Jesus by Demonstrating God's love,
Declaring the Good News, and making Disciples near and far.

Everyone who attends our Gatherings is encouraged to lead or participate in a Group. Check out the *Groups@Calvary* brochure, or contact the office to find or begin a Group.

GIVE THROUGH SERVICE

Members are involved in the **MISSION** of Calvary through a variety of ministries. Here are some examples:

<u>Prayer@Calvary</u> is a vital army of prayer warriors who daily intercede for the prayer requests and needs of our church family. To join these prayer warriors, or to request prayer, email prayer@cbcfamily.net today!



<u>Care@Calvary</u> is a ministry that allows us to serve, help, and care for our church family. No need is too small and when the call for help goes out, you choose what you can do to serve. Email <u>care@cbcfamily.net</u> to register today!

Volunteers@Calvary

Our Calvary campuses could not function without the service of our members and regular attendees. There are opportunities to serve Sunday mornings and throughout the week, both on and off campus. Service opportunities are more



thoroughly discussed in *On-Ramp* Steps TWO and THREE.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND OUTREACH

We encourage all members to be active in ministries on our campuses, in our communities, and around the world. Opportunities to serve and participate are ever-changing and growing. Strategies for these ministries are more thoroughly discussed in Step FOUR of the *On-Ramp* series.

CALVARY'S VISION

Our VISION Is Based Upon Six Major Elements:

BUILD A MOVEMENT OF REPRODUCING DISCIPLES

While this is the essence of our 4G strategy and philosophy, such a movement must be further catalyzed by training, with an emphasis on the 3-P's:

- Personal evangelism.
- Presence in our community.
- Priority of disciple-making in missions.

RELEASE A WAVE OF SMALL GROUPS

God created us for community. As our Calvary family gathers to demonstrate, declare, and disciple we are able to better support, encourage, and grow when we are familiar with those around us. We want everyone to experience the community that can only be found in smaller groups. While groups may be as varied as the people we are reaching, they are essential to our vision.

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." MATTHEW 18:20

DEVELOP A NETWORK OF CONGREGATIONAL COMMUNITIES

Rather than gathering as many people as possible in one room, at one time, Calvary will be a network of congregations. Each congregation will be unique based on the community they are reaching, while united around the same mission, values, strategy, structure, leadership, and resources. Each congregation will have a Campus teaching Pastor and the same sermon and 4G curriculum will be taught across all campuses.



TARGET MINISTRIES - NEXT GENERATION FOCUS

We will support, encourage, and walk with families as they disciple their children. At the same time, we will create age-appropriate environments that encourage children and teens to Demonstrate God's love, Declare the Good News, and Disciple near and far.

CREATE SYSTEMS THAT SUPPORT THE VISION

We will create systems, processes, facilities, and equipment that support and enable us to effectively fulfill God's mission and vision for our church.

EMPOWER OUR STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS TO LEAD CALVARY

We will hire, invest in, train, and empower the men and women God has called to serve and lead at Calvary. We will help those involved in Calvary to discover God's calling on their life. Our paid staff will focus on equipping people for ministry rather than performing ministry tasks.

MEMBERSHIP

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A MEMBER OF CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH – OR ANY CHURCH?

What church membership does NOT mean:

- Church membership does NOT grant you a ticket to heaven.
- Church membership does NOT even guarantee you are a Christian.

Only repenting of your sins and placing your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord guarantees you are a Christian.

However, church membership should require that at some point in the past you put your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.





Becoming a member of Calvary Baptist Church means that you support the Mission, Core Values, Beliefs, Vision, and Leadership of Calvary. It also empowers you to be a part of determining how best to fulfill that mission and vision.

The vision God has given the leadership of Calvary may differ from other churches. This does not necessarily make Calvary "right" and all others "wrong". It means God uses each of us a little differently. By becoming a member of Calvary, you are proclaiming that you want to be a part of reaching your community and the world in the way God is leading Calvary and you will support Calvary with your hands, feet, voice, time, money, and especially your prayers.

The following pages introduce three qualifications for becoming a member of the Calvary Family.

WHAT ARE *QUALIFICATIONS* FOR MEMBERSHIP?

THE FIRST QUALIFICATION is a public profession of faith. This simply means that upon hearing and understanding the Gospel message that you have repented of your sins and placed your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and that you have told others about this decision.

Jesus said, "So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven."

MATTHEW 10:32

"Repenting of your sins" means that you admit that you are a sinner, believe that Jesus shed His blood, died, and rose again to pay for your sins.

"Placing your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord" means that not only have you accepted what Jesus did on the cross, but that you are turning all aspects of your life over to Him, for the rest of your life. You now live in a relationship with Jesus in which every choice and every decision you make will be done in a way that is guided by and honoring of Him.

This is not a ritual based upon any specific words or prayers, but rather, a willful decision and sincere step of faith that leads to a life that is observably changed and generates a strong desire to grow as a disciple.

Paul explains this in his letter to the Roman people, and we can highlight this process with the following scriptures, often referred to as *The Romans Road*...

- ROMANS 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God". Even just one sin separates us from our relationship with God and eternity in Heaven.
- ROMANS 5:8 "But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Because God loves us, He has taken the initiative to rectify the relationship.
- ROMANS 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." No matter what we try, because of our sin, we cannot restore the relationship and are destined for death, eternal separation from God. But God provided a perfect sacrifice, a bridge Jesus Christ. By accepting the gift of Jesus through faith in who He is and what He's done, the relationship can be restored, and we can be eternally with God.
- ROMANS 10:9 "...because, 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." We must not only understand and believe God's plan, but we must verbalize it to others and act upon it. Our actions validate our faith.

This process is often called being "born again." It's a spiritual birth into a restored relationship with God.

Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." JOHN 3:3

If you have not yet done this, we invite you to do it now. Repent of your sins, place your faith in Jesus, and tell someone right away. You can pray right now; admit you are a sinner, believe Jesus is God's gift, that He died and rose again. Place your faith in Him as Lord and Savior over everything in your life.

Now, tell someone!

THE SECOND QUALIFICATION is that you follow or have followed up this faith and confession with baptism. Baptism is another action that validates our faith. It is both exemplified and commanded by Jesus Christ (MATTHEW 3:13-16; 28:18-19).

Baptism is a symbolic profession, much like a wedding ring. The ring doesn't make you married, but it is symbolic that you are. You're telling everyone, "the old life is gone, my new life has come" (2 CORINTHIANS 5:17). Similarly, baptism is a symbolic profession of our newfound faith, an act of obedience following the example and command of our Savior and Lord.

If you have just decided to accept Jesus as Savior and Lord, or you've made this decision in the past but haven't yet followed it with baptism, now is the time! Joyfully make this declaration of your salvation to the church so that we can all proclaim glory to God for what he has done in your heart.

A couple more things about baptism:

- Biblically, baptism only follows a person's decision and confession to accept Jesus as Savior and Lord. Therefore, baptisms before decisions may be well intentioned, but are not professions.
- Biblically, baptism is done by immersion. In fact, the Greek word literally means "fully sunk". We choose to follow the Biblical example and as a reflection of Jesus' burial and resurrection; fully dying to self and raised to new life as a devoted disciple of Jesus Christ (COLOSSIANS 2:12-14).

THE THIRD QUALIFICATION is that you agree with our Essential Beliefs. Again, some of these beliefs are listed on pages 16 and 17 of this booklet and a more thorough examination of our beliefs is posted on our web site.

www.cbcfamily.net/beliefs.html

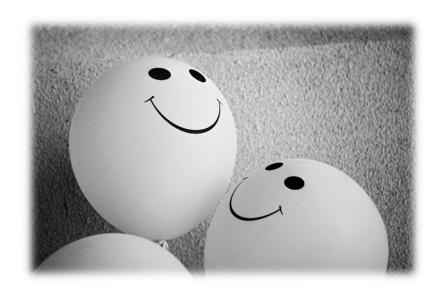
I'M INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER, WHERE DO I START?

First Attend On-Ramp Step One – ABOUT CALVARY.

Second Complete the Step ONE Card and new member application information.

Third Meet with a member of the Church Council or Deacon Body to follow up on your request for membership.

Fourth Be affirmed by the Church Council, after which the full Calvary membership will be informed and given two weeks to voice any objections.



WHAT'S NEXT?



1. Become a Calvary Baptist Church Member.

Membership at Calvary is not about adding your name to a roster; it's about connecting with the people and the vision of the church. We would love for you to be a part.

2. Join a Group.

Check out the *Groups@Calvary* brochure or the *Groups* page of our web site for a listing of current Groups. If you already have friends at Calvary, joining with them or beginning a new Group is also a great place to start. Contact the office for assistance with joining or beginning a Group. (Membership is not required to join a group)

3. Complete All Four Steps of the On-Ramp Series.

Step ONE - ABOUT CALVARY

Step TWO - DISCOVER YOUR GIFTS

Step THREE - CONNECT TO CALVARY

Step FOUR - CONNECT TO OUR WORLD

Congratulations on completing Step ONE – *About Calvary*. We hope this has helped you discover who we are and that prayerfully you have found yourself a home. Whether you are prepared to seek membership at this time or not we do encourage you to continue the On-Ramp series.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions and have a truly blessed day.



Step TWO - DISCOVER YOUR GIFTS

Dive into the details of your personality, discover your gifts, identify your skills, and see how your design reveals your purpose and potential best fit for ministry at Calvary.

THE NEXT **STEP TWO** WILL TAKE PLACE:

CBC Calvary Baptist Church

Step THREE - CONNECT TO CALVARY

Connect to opportunities available for ministry at Calvary. Live out your purpose to serve God by serving others using your gifts, talents, and skills.

THE NEXT STEP THREE WILL TAKE PLACE:

Step FOUR - CONNECT TO OUR WORLD

Discover how you can impact lives across the street and around the world with simple tools and strategies fulfilling the purposes of Calvary and the greater body of Christ



THE NEXT **STEP FOUR** WILL TAKE PLACE:

ANSWER KEY



Step ONE — ABOUT CALVARY / Becoming A Member

Page 10: Demonstrating, Declaring, Disciples

Page 11: God, Gather, Groups, Give

The Word of God, Prayer

Page 12: Training, Community, Worship

Page 13: Cooperative

Page 16: Unity, Liberty, Love

Page 20: Gather, God, Group, Give

Page 21: Gathering Time, God Time, Group Time, Family Time