



STARTING POINT

STEP TWO - CONNECTION. COMMUNITY.

*THE THIEF COMES ONLY TO STEAL AND KILL AND  
DESTROY; I HAVE COME THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE,  
AND HAVE IT TO THE FULL.*

JOHN 10:10, NIV



# STARTING POINT

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# THE CALVARY STORY

On November 6, 1966, fifty-nine people came to the first service for Calvary Church. Most of the people there were simply well-wishers, but about twelve had committed to M.C. and Betty Johnson to help birth a church.

Calvary Temple - as the church was originally named - was determined to set traditions aside and simply look to the Word of God to guide their actions and beliefs. They had a deep desire to minister to people from the *cradle to the grave*. This desire along with the blessing of God inspired them to pursue their calling

A children's ministry started on the second Sunday, and as the church grew, more ministries were added to meet the needs of people of all ages and to give opportunities for people to use their gifts.

Today, Calvary continues to help people discover the *life to the full* that Jesus came to offer by offering ministries that serve people throughout every stage of life. We have nurseries available for infants, programs for kids and students, activities for young adults, and events for senior adults. Other ministries include Calvary Day Care, which serves families with children starting at six weeks old, Calvary Academy, a pre-kindergarten through 12th grade school committed to building dynamic Christian leaders, and Capitol Retirement Village, which provides independent living for senior adults. There are ministries available and places to serve every day of the week.

At Calvary, we are serious about being a New Testament church by loving and serving people in Springfield and around the world. We believe God wants us to learn how to live His way, and that He has created us for good works. These two truths drive us to study God's Word so we can apply it to our lives and be open to being used to help others.

All of this happens because God's Son, Jesus, intervened in this world. As we follow Him, we will find life to the full. This is our vision.

We invite you to join us in discovering this for yourself and helping others find it as well.

# CALVARY CHURCH VISION

It is the vision of Calvary Church to help people discover the life to the full that Jesus promised.

Life to the full is discovered when we possess:

\_\_\_\_\_ that comes only from the saving knowledge of God's love.

\_\_\_\_\_ that comes only from walking in obedience to God's Word.

\_\_\_\_\_ that comes only from expressing divinely-given gifts.

\_\_\_\_\_ that comes only from being a submitted part of the body of Christ.

\_\_\_\_\_ over self and sin that comes only from being baptized in the Holy Spirit.

To discover life to the full, we believe God has always had it in His heart to take His people on a four-step journey.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

# KNOW GOD

We believe the Church is called to come together to worship and learn how to live a life pleasing to God. We want people to feel welcome, whether they are on a new journey of faith or are established followers of Jesus.

## Sunday Services

Our Sunday services focus on six values:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

We believe our Sunday services should be a place all people are made to feel welcome.

*Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.*

Romans 15:2

*For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*

Galatians 5:14



2. \_\_\_\_\_

We believe our Sunday services should be enjoyable.

*I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"*

Psalm 122:1

3. \_\_\_\_\_

We believe our Sunday services should be a place people experience God's presence.

*You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

Psalm 16:11

*But suppose everyone is prophesying and some people come in who do not believe or do not understand. If everyone is prophesying, their sin will be shown to them, and they will be judged by all that they hear. The secret things in their hearts will be made known. So they will bow down and worship God saying, "Truly, God is with you."*

1 Corinthians 14:24–25, NCV

4. \_\_\_\_\_

We believe our Sunday services should be a place people learn how the Bible applies to their daily lives.

*And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.*

Ephesians 4:11–12

5. \_\_\_\_\_

We believe our Sunday services should be a place people can express praise, thankfulness, and worship in response to God's power and love.

*But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.*

John 4:23

6. \_\_\_\_\_

We believe our Sunday services should be a place people can come to Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

*For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”  
How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?*

Romans 10:13–14

## EQUIP

At Calvary, we believe we are called to help all people become mature followers of Christ. Whether you are new to your faith or actively maturing in it, we want to give you opportunities to learn and grow. *Equip* is our strategy for making that happen. Through classes, small groups, and special events, we are answering the call “*to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*” Ephesians 4:12-13

## STARTING POINT

Starting Point is just that: a point for those new to Calvary to start to learn more about the life God created for them and how we live that out at Calvary Church. This four-week class will help you know more about God, Calvary Church, and your purpose as well as help you understand how those three things work together to help you fulfill God’s plan for your life. We encourage everyone to attend Starting Point no matter how long you have been attending Calvary.

For class times and locations, visit [CalvarySpringfield.org/Equip](http://CalvarySpringfield.org/Equip).

# CONNECTION. COMMUNITY.

## C2 Small Groups

We believe real life change and practical Christianity is lived out in the context of relationships, which is why we are a church with small groups. In the book of Acts, early Christians worshiped in the temple and gathered both in the temple as well as house to house.

*How I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house.*

Acts 20:20

C2 Small Groups have four characteristics. They come in many shapes and sizes, but they all:

- \_\_\_\_\_ together.
- \_\_\_\_\_ together.
- \_\_\_\_\_ with each other.
- \_\_\_\_\_ for each others' needs.

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*

Acts 2:42

A C2 Small Group is an intentional gathering of people who meet regularly. Since God designed us for relationships, we believe it is through the connections made in small groups that we grow. People form groups around what matters in their lives. They may connect with people who share similar interests or are at the same stage in life. Groups meet at various times and locations throughout Springfield and surrounding area. We believe that there is a group out there for you!

Groups are \_\_\_\_\_ .

Group leaders work with their members to determine the best time, place and frequency for meeting. Groups are also able to determine the discussion content of their groups, as it fits within Calvary's theology and values. Groups will have discussion around sermon topics, books of the Bible, a book or video series. Some groups meet around their commonalities such as age, gender, life situation, or interests. Our groups are as varied as we are!

Most of our groups will fall into one of the following categories:

- Gender
- Couples
- Families
- All Adults
- Young Adults
- Students
- Senior Adults
- Outreach/Serving
- Interests/Hobbies
- Recovery/Support

You can \_\_\_\_\_ a C2 group.

We would love for you to get connected in a C2 Group. To find the right group for you, complete a card at the Info Booth or on our website, and we will be in touch to help you find a good fit. You are encouraged to visit several groups until you find the right fit.

You can \_\_\_\_\_ a C2 group.

We believe everyone has areas of strength and gifting that can benefit others, and leading a group is a great way to make meaningful connections. The first step in becoming a group leader is to attend the four Starting Point classes. If leading a group is something you

are interested in, contact the Ministry Involvement Pastor for more information.



# DISCOVER PURPOSE

All of us were created by God to make a difference in the lives of others. Understanding your spiritual gifts, personality, abilities, and life experiences can help you discover your purpose in life.

*Now God gives us many kinds of special abilities...There are different kinds of service to God [ministry]...All of you are the one body of Christ, and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it.*

1 Corinthians 12:4-5, 27, TLB

# SERVE OTHERS

God has a place for you where your unique abilities and passions can impact those around you. We believe your life will never make sense until you find, develop, and fulfill that purpose.

*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

Ephesians 2:10

*But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.*

Acts 20:24





# CALVARY CHURCH STRUCTURE

*For God is not a God of confusion but of peace...*

*But all things should be done decently and in order.*

1 Corinthians 14:33, 40

At Calvary, our \_\_\_\_\_ provides oversight in matters of church governance.

The Church Council is made of the following five groups:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ exercise oversight and have final authority in spiritual, doctrinal, and disciplinary issues of the church as well as church membership.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ give oversight to operational management of the church by meeting the practical, physical, and administrative needs of the church to facilitate the spread of the gospel and are chosen by church members by ballot voting.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ gives oversight to the financial management of the church.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ acts as the spiritual leader of the church and serves as chair of the Church Council, Elders, Deacons, and Stewardship Team.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ are responsible for oversight of the departments of the church.

## Our Affiliation

Calvary is an independent, full gospel church consisting of many Christian faiths. We voluntarily function as a cooperative church with the Assemblies of God.

There are several advantages to this affiliation.

1. It allows us to \_\_\_\_\_ with other Christians around the world who are known for their commitment to the Bible.
2. It allows us to \_\_\_\_\_ in a large, worldwide missionary organization.
3. Although not restrictive, it \_\_\_\_\_ a covering.

The Assemblies of God does not \_\_\_\_\_ the local church, but it does hold the credentialed ministers \_\_\_\_\_. The pastors on staff who hold credentials with the Assemblies of God are subject to a \_\_\_\_\_ by the denomination.

# CALVARY CHURCH FINANCES

*“Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the Lord’s; it is holy to the Lord.”*

Leviticus 27:30

*On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.*

1 Corinthians 16:2

## **Tithe & Offerings**

At Calvary, we practice tithing for the support of Christ’s Body, the Church, as God commands. We recognize that giving 10% of our income is the biblical standard for giving.

We try to be transparent with our handling of finances at Calvary. Members can meet with our business administrator and ask any questions they’d like regarding how we use the financial resources God has given us. Further, an external auditing firm reviews our financial records and practices on a regular basis to ensure that we manage your tithes and offerings appropriately.

The giving of tithes and offerings is worship to God and an expression of the relationship between the individual giver and the Lord. Tithes and offerings are worship; they are not business transactions but an expression of gratitude toward God.

## CALVARY CHURCH STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Bible, both Old and New Testaments, is the foundation of our faith and practice. For this reason, you will find scripture references following each of our fundamental truths.

### **The Scripture Inspired**

The Bible is the inspired Word of God to mankind and is the authoritative rule for our faith and conduct.

2 Timothy 3:1-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:21

### **The One True God**

We believe there is one true God who revealed Himself as the eternal Creator of Heaven and Earth and the Redeemer of mankind. God is revealed to us as a trinity in the persons of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10, 11; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22

## **The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ**

The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, performed many miracles, died on a cross to pay the penalty for man's sins, arose from the grave, and ascended into Heaven where He is exalted at God's side.

Matthew 1:23; Hebrews 7:26; Acts 2:22; 1 Corinthians 15:3;  
Matthew 28:6; Acts 1:9- 11; Hebrews 1-3

## **The Fall of Man**

Man was created by God after the very image of God. However, by his own voluntary actions, man fell out of God's grace and favor. This resulted in not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God.

Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 2:17; Genesis 3:6; Romans 5:12-19

## **The Salvation of Man**

Man's only means of regaining a relationship with God is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Salvation is received when man turns from his sin (repentance) and turns toward faith in God and Jesus Christ.

Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8;  
Titus 2:11; 3:5-7

## **The Ordinances of the Church**

### *Baptism in Water*

Following the command of New Testament teaching, those who have experienced salvation should be baptized in water. This act is an outward symbol of new spiritual life in Christ.

Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47-48; Romans 6:4

### *Holy Communion*

Holy Communion, referred to as “The Lord’s Supper,” consists of bread or wafers and the fruit of the vine. Believers in Christ share communion to remember His death and look forward to His return. It is also an expression of the believers’ shared divine nature of Christ.

1 Corinthians 11:26; 2 Peter 1:4

## **The Baptism of the Holy Spirit**

Believers are encouraged to experience the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, which was the typical experience in the early Christian church. The baptism in the Holy Spirit brings power for life and service, a deeper love for God, a greater dedication to Christ and His work and Word.

Luke 24:49; Acts 2:42; Mark 16:20

## **The Evidence of Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

The initial physical evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is speaking with other tongues as enabled by the Spirit of God.

Acts 2:4

## **Sanctification**

Sanctification is an active effort on the part of the believer to separate from evil and dedicate oneself to God. The believer identifies with Christ's death and resurrection and daily seeks to surrender himself to the direction of Christ's teaching and the Holy Spirit.

Romans 12:1, 2; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Romans 6:1-13;

Galatians 2:20

## **The Church**

The Church is considered the Body of Christ. It is where God lives through the Spirit. Each believer is an important part of the Church.

Ephesians 1:22-23; Ephesians 2:22; Hebrews 12:23

## **The Ministry**

The Bible establishes that ministries will exist within the Church so that those who do not believe in Christianity can be reached and that believers in Jesus Christ can be established in the teachings of the Church.

Mark 16:15-20; Ephesians 4:11-13

## **Divine Healing**

Healing from sickness has been provided through the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 8:16-17; James 5:14-16



## **The Blessed Hope**

Christians who have died will one day rise from their graves to meet the Lord in the air. Christians who have not yet died will be caught up with them to be with the Lord. This event is referred to as the Rapture.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13;  
1 Corinthians 15:51-52

## **The Millennial Reign of Christ**

The Second Coming of Christ includes the rapture of believers, followed by the visible return of Christ with His believers to rule on the Earth for one thousand years. The Millennial Reign of Christ will bring salvation to Israel and establish universal peace.

Zechariah 14:5; Matthew 24:27, 30; Revelation 19:11-14;  
Revelation 20:1-6; Ezekiel 37:21, 22; Isaiah 11:6-9

## **The Final Judgment**

There will be a final judgment when those who died without accepting Christ's salvation will be judged for their unbelief and sent to eternal punishment in the lake of fire.

Matthew 25:46; Revelation 20:11-15; Revelation 21:8

## **The New Heavens and the New Earth**

Based on New Testament teachings, believers look forward to a new Heaven and a new Earth being established.

2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:22

For more information on our Statement of Faith, please visit [CalvarySpringfield.org/WhatWeBelieve](http://CalvarySpringfield.org/WhatWeBelieve).

# CALVARY CHURCH MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

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

1. I will protect the \_\_\_\_\_ of my church by
  - acting in love toward other members,
  - refusing to gossip, and
  - following the leaders.

*So let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony, and on the growth of one another's character.*

Romans 15:19, PH

*Live in complete harmony with each other—each with the attitude of Christ toward the other.*

Romans 14:5, TLB

*Now that by your obedience to the truth you have purified yourselves and have come to have a sincere love for other believers, love one another earnestly with all your heart*

1 Peter 1:22, GNT

*Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.*

Ephesians 4:29

*Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.*

Hebrews 13:17

2. I will share the \_\_\_\_\_ of my church by

- praying for its growth,
- inviting the unchurched to attend, and
- giving regularly.

*We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers.*

1 Thessalonians 1:2

*And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled.*

Luke 14:23

*On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.*

1 Corinthians 16:2

*Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or the fruit of the trees, is the Lord's; it is holy to the Lord.*

Leviticus 27:30

3. I will serve the \_\_\_\_\_ of my church by

- discovering my gifts and talents,
- being equipped to serve by my pastors, and
- developing a servant's heart.

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.*

1 Peter 4:10

*And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.*

Ephesians 4:10

*Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus... by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.*

Philippians 2:3-4, 7

4. I will support the \_\_\_\_\_ of my church by

- attending faithfully,
- living a Godly life, and
- warmly welcoming those who visit.

*Not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

Hebrews 10:25

*Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel.*

Philippians 1:27

*Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.*

Romans 15:7

# WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY!

# NEXT STEPS

If you haven't already:

**1. Become a member of Calvary Church.**

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.

**2. Join a C2 Small Group.**

Stop by the Info Booth or call the Church Office to learn more about our C2 Small Group options.

**3. Complete the remaining steps of Starting Point.**

Step Three - Discover Purpose

Step Four - Serve Others

## ANSWER KEY

PAGE 4:	Peace; Security; Fulfillment; Wholeness; Power
PAGE 5:	Know God; Connection. Community.; Discover Purpose; Serve Others
PAGE 6:	Friendliness
PAGE 7:	Celebration; Inspiration
PAGE 8:	Equipping; Praise and Worship; Salvation
PAGE 10:	Pray; Study; Fellowship; Care
PAGE 12:	varied; join; lead
PAGE 16:	Church Council; Elders; Deacons; Stewardship Team; Senior Pastor; Pastors & Directors
PAGE 17:	partner; participate; provides; control, accountable, yearly review
PAGE 24:	unity
PAGE 25:	responsibility
PAGE 26:	ministries; testimony





