

The background of the slide is a photograph of a vast, flat green field under a bright blue sky filled with scattered white and light blue clouds. The horizon line is low, and the overall scene is bright and open.

# **PRE-MEMBERSHIP ORIENTATION**

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## PRE-MEMBERSHIP ORIENTATION

**Saturday - 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

***Directions To:***  
**New Life Fellowship**  
**201 E. Sublett**  
**Arlington, TX 76018**  
**817-469-8224**

**Coming from Dallas, DeSoto, etc.:**

- ❖ Go west on I-20
- ❖ Exit #450/Matlock Rd.
- ❖ Turn left (going south) on Matlock
- ❖ Go approx. 2.5 miles
- ❖ At Sublett, make a U-turn to go north on Matlock.
- ❖ Turn into parking lot to the church behind CVS.

**Coming from Arlington, Fort Worth, etc.:**

- ❖ Go east on I-20
- ❖ Exit #450/Matlock Rd.
- ❖ Turn right (going south) on Matlock
- ❖ Go approx. 2.5 miles
- ❖ At Sublett, make a U-turn to go north on Matlock.
- ❖ Turn into parking lot to the church behind CVS.



## WELCOME



Dear Prospective Member:

We are deeply honored that you desire to join the New Life Fellowship family. One of the most important decisions in life for any Christian is the selection of a church home. Because a church is entrusted with the awesome responsibility of your spiritual well-being, it is crucial that the choice be made prayerfully and carefully.

It is because we respect the seriousness of this decision that we have established this new member's process. Our desire is to orient you to the mission, values, and vision of New Life Fellowship and to provide you with the basic knowledge of what it means to be a growing Christian.

May God's grace guide and direct you as you experience this process of becoming a member of New Life Fellowship. I look forward with great anticipation to the potential of serving you as your pastor-teacher.

Because of His Grace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maurice Pugh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Maurice Pugh, PhD  
Senior Pastor

## SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS



### CLASS REQUIREMENTS

Please set aside some time to study and respond to the following discussion questions prior to each class. If your spouse is also attending the class, each of you must complete a separate lesson and data sheet. Each participant is asked to bring a Bible and completed lesson.

### CLASS TIME

Each class will begin promptly at 9:00 AM. However, it will be helpful if you can arrive by 8:45 AM. Class will end at 1:30 PM. Childcare will be provided, but you must request it prior to the beginning of class. At the end of class, we would like to take your picture for our church records, answer questions about ministry opportunities as well as any other questions you may have.

### CLASS ATTENDANCE

At the beginning of class, please check-in so that we may have a record of your attendance and provide you with any special instructions. Make-up classes will only be provided in cases of emergency. You must participate in the entire class session to be granted official membership.

### PERSONAL INTERVIEW

Each prospective member will meet with a trained leader after *Membership Orientation*, but before presentation to the congregation, to discuss the member's understanding of salvation, discipleship, commitment, and the next step in the new member's process.

## Very Important...

1. In preparation for *Membership Orientation*, please read and complete the sections: "Why Membership?" and "The Meaning of Salvation & Baptism."
2. At the end of *Membership Orientation*, you will be asked to sign up to serve in a ministry area. Please review the "Ministry Service Description", and prayerfully consider a ministry area to serve.
3. At the end of *Membership Orientation*, you will also be asked to register for the 7-week spiritual growth class, *Life Begins* – this class is designed to build relationships with other believers around the study of basic Christian principles.

We look forward to making the New Members process a wonderful part of your spiritual journey at New Life Fellowship.

If you have any questions, please contact Elaine Ellis at 817-469-8224, or e-mail her at [elaine.ellis@nlifellowship.org](mailto:elaine.ellis@nlifellowship.org).

## WHY MEMBERSHIP?



### I. The Meaning of Church Membership

Church membership is the commitment of a Christian to be identified and involved with a local group of believers who are devoted participants of that community of faith.

1. Of what church was Phoebe identified and a servant?

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(Romans 16:1)

2. When did the believers gather together?

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(Acts 20:7)

### II. The Activities of Church Membership

There are some specific activities that are conducted among believers when they gather together, such as:

1. Hebrews 10:25

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2. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
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3. 1 Timothy 4:13

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4. 1 Peter 4:10

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5. Philippians 3:3

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6. Acts 12:5

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7. 1 Corinthians 16:1-2

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### **III. The Responsibilities of Church Membership**

Membership at New Life Fellowship expects a commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ and this local church in the following areas:

1. To \_\_\_\_\_ with respect to your salvation (1 Peter 2:2). God desires for each member to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ; this growth effort requires one to prioritize moments and opportunities for spiritual growth such as: prayer, bible study, and worship.
2. To \_\_\_\_\_ in the church (1 Peter 4:10). God has gifted each member in the body of Christ with a spiritual gift to be used to serve each other and bring glory and honor to God.

3. To \_\_\_\_\_ support the ministries of the church (1 Corinthians 16:1). God provides monetarily to his saints but asks that believers give cheerfully, willfully, and generously to support ministries of the church such as outreach efforts, oversees mission, members in need, etc.
  
4. To \_\_\_\_\_ others into a relationship with Christ or visit the Church (John 4:29). God anticipates that Christians will regularly and enthusiastically tell others about His Son Jesus Christ and/or invite people to church service to hear about God's love for them.
  
5. To \_\_\_\_\_ authentic and genuine relationships with other Christians (Ecclesiastes 4). God created people not to be isolated from one another, but for companionship and relationship. True spiritual growth happens in the context of believers who gather together for prayer, study, and accountability.

## **SALVATION**



### **I. The Need for Salvation**

A. What does the Bible say about humanity's spiritual condition:

- i. Romans 3:9 \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. Romans 3:10 \_\_\_\_\_
- iii. Romans 3:11 \_\_\_\_\_
- iv. Romans 3:23 \_\_\_\_\_
- v. Ephesians 2:1 \_\_\_\_\_

B. What is the consequence of sin:

- i. Genesis 2:17; Romans 6:23 \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. Isaiah 59:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_

### **II. The Provision of Salvation**

A. What is the gift of God? \_\_\_\_\_ Rom. 6:23

i. What does "a gift" generally mean?

\_\_\_\_\_

ii. What does the gift of God mean for "sinners?"

\_\_\_\_\_

B. What is the role of Jesus as the provision of salvation (1 Corinthians 15:3)?

\_\_\_\_\_

C. What made Jesus qualified to be the provision for our salvation (2 Corinthians 5:21)?

\_\_\_\_\_

### **III. The Process of Salvation**

A. What must a person do to become a Christian (Romans 10:9):

- i. \_\_\_\_\_ in your heart
- ii. \_\_\_\_\_ died for our sins and was raised from the dead
- iii. Then you will be \_\_\_\_\_.

B. To sum it up, Ephesians 2:8-9 says: We are

\_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_  
through \_\_\_\_\_ and not according to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Explain how you become a Christian. Use back page if you need more space.**

# BAPTISM



When people consider the topic of Baptism, two categories of questions are often asked. The first is a very basic one: “What is the spiritual significance of baptism?” The second has to do with traditions from the past—specifically, pre-conversion baptism. The issue in that case is, “Why be baptized as an adult believer when I was baptized as a baby?”

## IV. Why Baptize?

- A. **Baptism was commanded by the Lord Jesus Christ:** “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19). Baptism is the means by which disciples of Christ are identified.
- B. **Baptism was practiced by the early church.** In the book of Acts, believers expressed *publicly*, through the act of baptism, their inward decision and intent to follow the Lord Jesus Christ. In Acts, it is evident that the act of baptism came after an individual’s decision to trust Christ for salvation (Acts 2:28, 41; 8:12; 10:47-48). Baptism can’t give a person anything, spiritually speaking. It can signify something that has already happened.

## V. Who Should Be Baptized?

Believers/Disciples—The Apostles were commanded to “make disciples of all nations, baptizing them...” One must have the heart to be a follower of Christ. Individuals who trust Christ as their own personal Savior should be baptized.

- C. Anyone who has not been baptized since becoming a Christian.
- D. Any Christian who has never clearly understood the meaning of baptism, even though they may have been baptized previously
- E. Any Christian who desires to recommit their life to Christ

## VI. What Does Baptism Mean?

The Apostle Paul says in Romans 6:3-4, “Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore, we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so too we might walk in newness of life.”

1. Baptism is a public declaration of the believer’s identification with Jesus Christ, death, burial, and resurrection.
  - a. Death – placed into the water, “Baptized into His death (Romans 6:3).
  - b. Burial – submerged, “Buried with Him through baptism into death (Romans 6:4).
  - c. Resurrection – brought up out of water, as Christ was raised from the dead...so we too might walk in newness of life.
  
2. Baptism is a testimony to a new life.
  - a. New direction and purpose for living.
  - b. Complete trust in God to direct your life.
  - c. Courage and excitement to share Jesus with others.
  - d. Controlled and directed by the Spirit of God.