

NOTES

**Our goal at Faith Community is to facilitate ways for you to connect with God and others.**

**I. Connect with God** – How do I connect with God?

**Step 1. Recognize that God loves us and wants us to be in relationship with Him.**

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

**John 3:16**

“I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

**John 10:10**

**Jeremiah 29:11**

**Step 2. Recognize that sin separates us from God and others.**

“Sin” is walking in rebellion against God’s will. When we walk away from God, we walk away from life.

**Everyone has sinned.**

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” **Romans 3:23**

**Sin brings death.**

“For the wages of sin is death.” **Romans 6:23**

**Our own efforts cannot save us.**

As sinners we futilely try to find life’s true meaning in the wrong ways and places.

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God not by works, so that no one can boast.” **Ephesians 2:8-9**

**Step 3. Recognize that Jesus Christ died and rose again for our sins.**

**Jesus Christ died in our place.**

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” **Romans 5:8**

**Jesus Christ is the way to new life.**

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” **2 Corinthians 5:17**

**He gives inner peace.**

“We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

**Romans 5:1**

**He gives freedom.**

“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” **John 8:36**

**He gives eternal life.**

“But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

**Romans 6:23**

**Step 4. Recognize that you need to ask God for forgiveness.**

**Admit and confess your sins to God.**

“He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.” **Proverbs 28:13**

- Confess your sins to God.
- Stop sinning.
- Let God help you grow in your relationship with Him.

**Step 5. Trust in Jesus Christ to forgive you.**

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” **1 John 1:9**

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in.” **Revelation 3:20**

“To all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.” **John 1:12**

**Putting this in a prayer:**

Lord Jesus, I want to have life. I know that I have sinned. I need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died and rose again for my sins. I now accept You as my personal Savior. I will forsake my sinful life. I know that Your grace and power will enable me to live for You. Thank You, Jesus, for saving me and for giving me a new life.

**II. Connect with His family – We need each other.**

“Don’t stop meeting together... Instead, encourage one another.”

**Hebrews 10:25a** (paraphrased)

“Since we are all one body in Christ, we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others.” **Romans 12:5b (NLT)**

“Every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all, starting with the people closest to us in the community of faith.”

**Galations 6:10 (Mes)**

“Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” **John 13:35 (NLT)**

**Ways to connect:**

**Small groups** – attend, open your home, start one

**Bible studies** – men’s, women’s, Route 66,

**Marriage Class** –

**Financial Peace Class** –

**Serving** – greeters, ushers, hospitality, choir, worship team, technical support (sound, lighting, videos), children, youth, concerts, events, services, security...

**Get to know someone new.** Start with the people that sit near you each week.

Come to a Wednesday night dinner.

**Romans 12:9-18, 21** “Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord...”