

First Class

What is First Class?

First Class is an orientation to the Family
of First Baptist Church taught by the Pastor.

Why First Class?

First Class is designed to help new people . . .
understand who we are and how we do church,
so that they are incorporated into the family
and function productively within the family.

These are our values:

Focused on meeting the needs of families
Always with room for another at the family table
Made up of multi-generational members
Involve the whole family in ministry
Loving environment of acceptance and growth
Yearning to know the Father in a greater way

This is our mission:

We exist to connect the disconnected to Christ, His church and His cause.

Or simply put: **Connecting people to life!**

We believe that the fullness of life is only experienced as we know Christ and are walking with Him daily; as we live within the community of the church; and as we are giving our lives for His mission in the world.

Connecting people to Christ:

A connection to Christ begins with salvation.

Admit you're a sinner (Romans 3:23)

Believe that Jesus died for your sin (Romans 6:23)

Confess Him with your mouth (Romans 10:13)

A connection with Christ continues through walking with Him in obedience.

The first step of obedience is baptism (Matthew 28:19)

The Christ-life is to be lived out in daily relationship with Him.

Be a student of the Word (2 Timothy 2:15)

Read, listen to, meditate on, and memorize God's word.
Do this privately, publicly, weekly and daily. As God speaks to you, obey!

Be devoted to prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Speak to your heavenly Father and listen to Him. Make prayer a constant activity in your daily life, but also develop a set time every day.

Surrender to Jesus as Lord and give Him control of your life (Galatians 2:20).

Demonstrate love (1 John 4:7-21). As Jesus pours His love into you, love others as He has loved you – sacrificially, unconditionally, and practically.

Have a servant's heart (Matthew 20:26-28). Focus on the needs of others and not yourself.

Be a giver (Malachi 3:10). Give of your time, talents and money for God's kingdom.

Connecting people to His church:

What it means to be “Baptist”

History of Baptist: Baptists grew out of the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century - a reaction against the Catholic Church. Baptists were a part of the Free Church movement of the Reformation. The early Baptist leaders took the reforms another step. They contended for a complete return to New Testament doctrine and practice.

The Bible is our sole source of authority, not a person, not the denomination, not tradition.

Our church is an independent democracy under the Lordship of Jesus.

The scriptural leaders of the church are pastors and deacons.

Our church is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, the Southern Baptist of Texas Convention and Unity Baptist Association.

Southern Baptist churches cooperate together in missions.

The Cooperative Program is our means of funding missions.

We believe that every Christian has direct access to God. 1 Peter 2:5,9

Therefore, we have the privilege to go to God on our own.

But we also have the responsibility to minister to others in Jesus' name.

Every member is a minister (Ephesians 4:11-12)

Our church is supported financially through tithes and offerings.

We believe that the Biblical standard for giving is a tithe (10% of earnings).

Tithing was taught in the Old Testament (Leviticus 27:30) but also by Jesus (Matthew 23:23).

Tithing is only the starting point of giving.

We believe Christians should publicly profess Christ through water baptism.

Immersion was the means of baptism in the Bible.

Baptism is for believers after their conversion.

The ordinance is a symbol, not a sacrament.

The other ordinance of the church is the Lord's Supper.

We believe salvation is by grace through faith.

Jesus' death on the cross paid for our sin debt through His blood.

Therefore, salvation is a gift and can't be lost since it is not by works of man but by the works of God.

The primary thrust of the church is evangelism.

We are called to reach out to our community and world.

People officially join our church by . . .

1. profession of faith (salvation and baptism)
2. transfer of letter from another Baptist church
3. statement of prior conversion experience and scriptural baptism when no letter is obtainable. Scriptural baptism is understood to be by immersion, after one's conversion experience and as an outward symbol of salvation.

After people have officially joined, we ask that they be committed to the family life within the church (Hebrews 10:25).

Give time and energy to corporate worship, small groups, service, and relationships within the family.

Beyond the weekly worship, small groups and service opportunities:

D-Groups are an intensive, focused, 40-week program to grow disciples. D-

Groups are made up of believers who are willing to be accountable, faithful and teachable. Specifically, D-Groups develop the daily discipline of being in God's word and allowing God to speak to you individually. Our D-Groups have a curriculum of 200 key scripture passages in the Bible. Each week members will have five scripture passages to read and one verse to memorize. A journal is provided for members to write down their daily time in God's word. The D-Groups are kept to between 3-5 men or women so that the interaction may be as personal and confidential as possible. D-Groups meet once a week for an hour to an hour and a half at a place and time that is convenient to its members.

Our Church Staff:

Darryl Smith - Pastor

Byron Smith – Associate Pastor

Will Stacy - Next Generation Pastor

Erin Willis – Nursery Director

-Children's Director

Shane Stover - Worship Leader

Charity Ryan – Ministry Assistant

Connecting people to His cause:

As the Gospel impacts our lives, it radiates outward to make Gospel impact outward. The “Ripple Effect” includes:

Service Areas within the church:

We do these out of a love and commitment to Christ’s family.

Gifted Service

As you grow you discover your God-given design or SHAPE.

Spiritual Gifts

Heart

Abilities

Personality

Experiences

Where your S - H - A - P - E converges is called your “sweet spot.” It is where you have the greatest impact on the world and find the greatest satisfaction.

Evangelism and Missions:

Relationally connect the Gospel to those in your circles of influence.

Testify through your actions and words what Jesus has done.

Wherever Jesus leads you, plant the seeds of the gospel.

Step into new avenues of impact that connect to people outside your circles of impact.

Invest your life in others so that they are connected to Christ,
His church and His cause.

The ultimate goal is for us to have a relational connection to the Gospel with everyone in Huntington and even beyond that to the ends of the earth (Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 1:8).