

startingpoint

Connecting Guests and New Members
to Christ and Community



(Updated 5-1-2017)



Your journey at Calvary begins with

startingpoint

2017

PREFACE

- Welcome to Starting Point!.....page 2
- Calvary’s Storypage 4

PART 1 - CALVARY’S STORY

- Calvary’s Identity.....page 5
- Calvary’s Purpose.....page 7
- Calvary’s Strategies.....page 8
- Calvary On Missionpage 9

PART 2 - YOUR STORY

- Three Circles: A Life Conversation Guide.....page 13
- False Beliefspage 14
- Believer’s Baptism.....page 16
- The Lord’s Supper.....page 19
- Spiritual Growthpage 20
- Lifestyle Generosity.....page 21

PART 3 - WHAT’S NEXT?

- Connect Up.....page 25
- Connect In.....page 27
- Connect Out.....page 29
- Next Steps.....page 31

Starting Point is the guest and new member seminar for Calvary Baptist Church, © 2015

For questions regarding Calvary Baptist Church or the Starting Point class, please contact Don Schmidt in the Connections Office at 336.714.5422 or by email at dschmidt@calvarynow.com



Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All Rights reserved.



3 Circles: Life Conversation Guide graphic, ©2014, North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Alpharetta, Georgia

WELCOME TO STARTING POINT!

We are excited you've taken this step to connect with the Calvary family. Wherever you are in your journey, we hope that what we share today will help you connect more deeply with Christ and with this community of believers.

Many of you have already decided you want to make Calvary your church home while others of you are just beginning to learn about this church. In the short time we have together, we plan to tell you quite a bit about Calvary ... Who are we and what we believe God has called us to do for the kingdom. We also want to talk about the gospel that unites us as believers and how you can be part of God's plan to connect others to Christ and community.

At the end of our time together you may still have questions, and we want to answer them for you. Members of our Connections Team will be here to meet with you before you leave and any of our pastors would be glad to visit with you in the days ahead.

I look forward to meeting each of you individually,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Peters". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Pastor Rob Peters



PART ONE / CALVARY'S STORY

Every person has a story. Every church has a story. And we want to take some time to share with you part of Calvary's story.

From its beginnings nearly 100 years ago, and now as Calvary embraces a new vision for the future, God has been using this congregation to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in this community and around the world.

As we talk about Calvary's identity and purpose, we invite you to ask yourself the question, Is God calling me to invest my life for His kingdom with this congregation?

CALVARY'S IDENTITY

Calvary's History

Calvary has a rich history of evangelism, missions and watching God work in significant ways through this congregation. From its earliest beginnings at a tent revival in 1919 to its current ministry, Calvary is a testimony to the grace and purposes of God.

Calvary United

Calvary has grown to three campuses with five worship services in English, five language congregations (Hispanic, Deaf, Vietnamese, Nepali and Karenni) and an online venue. But with all that diversity, we remain Calvary United, one church united together by one vision for one mission.

Regardless of which campus or worship service you attend, you will find that we are all hearing the same sermon and that we are all a part of the same ministry pursuing the same vision. While most of our members will find that one campus is their best fit and they may call that their home campus, we hope that you will find an equal welcome on any campus.

Calvary Unique

Just like every believer is uniquely gifted and called by God for a kingdom purpose, we believe that God has raised up Calvary for a specific purpose in Winston-Salem, Davie County and the surrounding areas.

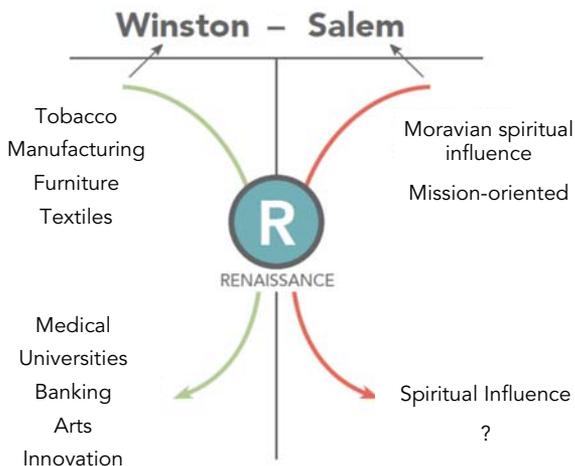
Our Vision Pathway

Beginning in 2014, Calvary entered into a fresh season of considering God's call on this church ... Who has He created us to be? Where has He placed us for ministry? And, what are the passions that He has given to the church leaders?

Answering those questions raised by the Vision Pathway process led the church to understand Calvary's "Kingdom Concept."



One of the ways we express our kingdom concept is by talking about Winston-Salem's metanarrative (which is a fancy word that means "over-arching story").



Prayerfully considering the story of our city led us to ponder again the Great Commission and consider how God is asking us to make disciples of all nations.

CALVARY'S PURPOSE

Calvary's Mission

To be the church that God is calling us to be, Calvary aligns everything we do with a singular mission. As a church we are *connecting people to Christ and Community* using every opportunity the Lord gives us.

Calvary's Vision

If you were to ask someone, how would you describe Calvary? Or, if you were to ask, what is Calvary known for? Our hope is that those who know Calvary would answer those questions by describing Calvary as a church who is intentionally and regularly *speaking the peace of God into the brokenness of our world*.

Calvary's Values

Calvary's Mission and Vision are expressions of the spiritual truths that have long been valued by this community of believers. Notice how each of the following statements is both rooted in our history and is aspirational in calling us to take our next step as a church.

1. God's truth over my opinion

Biblical Truth

2. Life transformation over more information

Transformational Community

3. God's mission over my preference

Missions/Evangelism

4. Lifestyle worship over Sunday experience

Lifestyle Worship

5. All generations over my generation

Connecting Generations

6. Generous living over ordinary giving

Kingdom Generosity

Calvary's Strategies

So how does a church seek to connect people to Christ and community? At Calvary that mission is accomplished through three strategies: to Connect Out, Connect In and Connect Up. All of Calvary's ministry programs, events and initiatives are designed around these three strategies. Even the church's budget planning process is evaluated in terms of whether we are using the Lord's money to Connect Out, Connect In and Connect Up.



Connect out

to others through service



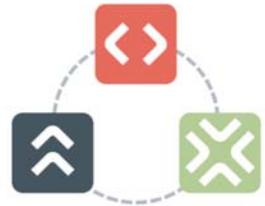
Connect in

to community through discipleship



Connect up

to God through worship



Calvary's Measures

Another question that could be asked is, how do you know when you are being successful? And some of the standard measures include giving, worship attendance, Bible study participation. But Calvary decided to change the scorecard and ask whether those who are attending are also living up to the truths they are learning. Questions like:

1. Am I engaging others who are not like me?
2. Am I sharing my story with someone this week?
3. Am I taking my next step of spiritual maturity?
4. Am I being transformed through community?
5. Am I worshipping God daily?
6. Am I being generous with all that I have?



An expanded version of these measures is included in the Helpful Information section.

CALVARY ... A CHURCH ON MISSION

Calvary's mission and vision along with our strategies and measures are more than just a way of talking about our ministry activities. Here are some of the practical expressions of what we've just shared.

Better Clarity – Calvary's Mission and Vision have given us greater clarity regarding who we are and what God has called us to do as His church in this community.

Ministry Alignment – Over the next months and years you will see everything we do being aligned with our mission and vision.

Bold Initiatives – You will begin hearing about the bold steps that God is calling us to take as a church from launching new ministries to facility renewal and global mission partnerships.

Heightened Expectations – This ministry clarity translates into heightened expectations for our members. Every member is being called to connect daily to others for evangelism, to community for life transformation and to God through worship and stewardship.

A PEOPLE ON MISSION

Calvary's vision isn't simply a vision for the corporate church. This is a vision for how every believer can speak the peace of God into the brokenness of others' lives.

A Question and a Prayer

So what about you? Are you ready to go all in for God? Here's a simple challenge we give each of our members:

- * **Invest** in two people each week
- * **Invite** them to church at Calvary
- * **Include** them in your small group

Doing these three things will give you the opportunity to inquire about the other person's next step as you help them connect with Christ and community.

You can pray this simple prayer throughout the day: "God, please use me to speak Your peace into two people's lives this week."

CALVARY 'S VISION PYRAMID

Calvary's Vision Pyramid is one of the ways we describe what we believe God has called us to as a church. You will see that the capstone is "1 Mission." Out of this flows 10 church initiatives that will result in 100 church plants and 1,000 stories of life transformation as we together touch 10,000 lives a week with the peace of God and the gospel of Christ.

All of that is possible as our members invest in two people each week, invite them to Calvary and include them in their small group. Together we can see our communities transformed by the gospel of Christ.





PART TWO / YOUR STORY

Every person has a story. It begins before they were born as an extension of their parents' story. And it continues after their physical death in the lives they touched and the impact they had. And woven throughout that story is a spiritual thread.

The spiritual thread is the work of God in our lives ... His caring for us, providing for us, leading us, and always, calling us to Himself.

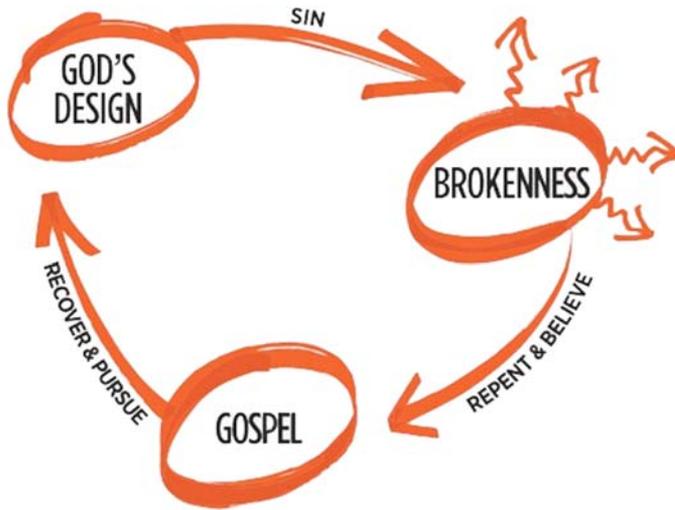
As we talk about our salvation and the symbols of our faith, let this be an opportunity to reflect on your story ... *Where are you in your spiritual journey?* At what points has God made Himself evident in your life? *What next step might He be asking you to take* at this time in your life?

V Am I taking my next step of spiritual maturity?

THREE CIRCLES: A LIFE CONVERSATION GUIDE

"We live in a broken world, surrounded by broken lives, broken relationships, and broken systems. This brokenness is seen in suffering violence, poverty, pain, and death around us. Brokenness leads us to search for a way to make life work."

That statement helps us understand how to use the Three Circles Conversation Guide as a simple tool for sharing the gospel, the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ.



The first circle, "God's Design," reminds us that much of what we experience today (the brokenness and pain of life) is not what God created in the beginning. When God created, it was good.

The second circle, "Brokenness," came about as a result of sin, both others' sin and our own sin. The multiple lines going out from this circle indicate the many ways we try to fix or balm this brokenness; attempts to find peace that often only make things worse.

The third circle, "Gospel," is God's Good News for our brokenness. The gospel is received when we repent and believe, and it allows us to recover and pursue God's original design.

Has someone shared with you the brokenness of their life? Have you been able to share with them the good news of the Gospel?

FALSE BELIEFS

Here are some common errors or false beliefs about how someone becomes a Christian:

I was born a Christian

Or, "My family has always been Christian."

John 3:6-7 – "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'"

Universalism

Or, "All roads lead to Heaven."

John 14:6 – "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'"

Intellectual Belief

Or, "I believe there is a God, but I've not received Him as my Savior."

James 2:19-20 – "You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe – and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?" (cf. also, Matthew 7:21-23)

Good Works

Or, "I hope that in the end my good deeds will outweigh my bad deeds."

Ephesians 2:8-9 – "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."

Baptism and Church Membership

Or, "I thought that if I was baptized as a member of the right church then I didn't have anything to worry about."

The ABC's of Salvation

Admit your need for Jesus because of your sin.

Believe Jesus died for your sins and rose again.

Commit your life to Him; surrender your control.

Prayer of Commitment

The Bible says, "*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved*" (Romans 10:13).

You can pray by yourself, or this may help you. The Lord is more concerned with the attitude of your heart than He is with your actual words.

Dear Lord, My life is broken and I recognize it's because of my sin. I need You. I believe Christ lived and died and was raised from the dead, all to rescue me from my sin. Forgive me. I turn from my selfish ways and put my trust in You. I know that Jesus is Lord of all, and I will follow Him. Amen.

Welcome!

Welcome to the family of God! If that prayer was the honest expression of your heart, then you have responded to the Holy Spirit of God calling you to Himself. There is no other commitment that is more important than the one you just made. We celebrate with you this new life that you have in Christ and the new beginning you are making.

My Next

If you have recently placed your faith in Christ and received His gift of salvation, or you would like to speak with someone about your relationship with Christ, please let us know that by checking the box on your Next Steps Response card.

CONNECTING UP . Personal Faith



- I recently placed my faith in Jesus Christ for salvation
- I am requesting Believer's Baptism by immersion
- I would like to talk with someone about my personal faith

BELIEVER'S BAPTISM

Believer's baptism by immersion is the first step of obedience that a new follower of Jesus should take. It is a symbol of our salvation. It will not save you, but it is important because it publically identifies you with Christ and His death and resurrection along with other believers.

What is the meaning of baptism?

Baptism illustrates Christ's death, burial and resurrection.

I Corinthians 15:3-4 – *"For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures..."*



See also, Colossians 2:12

Baptism illustrates our identification or union with Christ in His death and resurrection.

Romans 6:4 – *"We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."*



See also, II Corinthians 5:7; Galatians 2:20

Baptism illustrates that we have already been washed clean of our sins. Ephesians 5: 25-27 – *"Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish."*

Baptism doesn't make you a believer, it is simply a public declaration that you already believe. And it illustrates how we have died to our old life and are living in new life through Christ. Baptism is like a wedding ring – it's the outward symbol of the spiritual commitment you made in your heart.

Why should I be baptized?

We are baptized in obedience to Christ's command.

Matthew 28:19-20 – "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

We are baptized to follow the example set by Jesus.

Mark 1:9 – "*At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.*"



See also, Matthew 3:13-17

We are baptized to give public testimony we are believers who have committed to follow Jesus Christ.



Acts 2:41; 8:38-39; 16:13-15; 16:30-33; 18:8; I John 2:3

Who should be baptized?

Every person who has believed in Christ!

Acts 2:41 – "*Those who believed ... were baptized.*"

Acts 8:13 – "*Simon himself believed and was baptized.*"

Acts 8:12 – "*But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news ... they were baptized, both men and women.*"

And only those persons who have believe in Christ. Nowhere in the New Testament do we read of someone being baptized who had not placed their faith in Jesus Christ. Repentance and faith are the prerequisites for believer's baptism.

When should I be baptized?

As soon as you have believed!

Acts 2:41 – "*Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that that day about three thousand souls were added to them!*"



See also, Acts 8:35-38

Why do we baptize by immersion?

1. Because the literal meaning of the biblical word for “baptize” (baptizo) is “to plunge, dip, immerse or surround something in water.”

This word was used when a dyer of cloth would immerse (baptizo) the new cloth in a bucket of dye. As one pastor used to say with a smile, “If you lived in the New Testament period and had bought an electric fry skillet at the market, it would have been inscribed with the warning, ‘Do not baptize,’ which would have meant, Do not immerse.”

2. Because Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River by immersion. *“As soon as Jesus was baptized (baptizo/immersed), He went up out of the water...”* (Matthew 3:16).
3. Because every baptism in the Bible was by immersion. *“And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized (baptizo/immersed) him. When they came up out of the water...”* (Acts 8:36-39).



Other references to consider include: Acts 2:41; Acts 8:36-39; Acts 16:13-15; Acts 16:30-33; Acts 18:8

4. Because this was the practice of the early church for nearly 300 years following Christ.
5. Because baptism by immersion best symbolizes the spiritual realities of Christ’s death, burial and resurrection, of our union or identification with Christ, and of our spiritual death to self and resurrection to new life in Christ.

Baptism FAQ’s

i In the Additional Resources section of your Handbook is a list of Frequently Asked Questions regarding Believer’s Baptism. We invite you to look there for answers to other questions you might have.

My Next

If you have not been baptized by immersion since coming to know Christ as your Savior, then we encourage you to make that your next step of obedience. If you are ready to be baptized by immersion, please let us know by checking the box on your **Next Steps** Response card. You may also talk with one of our Connections Team members or call our Connections Office to take this next step at Calvary.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper has been called many names: The Eucharist, the Last Supper, Communion, the Agape Feast, and others. We simply call it, The Lord's Supper.

The Meaning of the Lord's Supper

The bread and juice are symbols of our faith. The elements do not become the blood and body of Christ. Instead they represent the body and blood of Christ that was offered as a sacrifice for our sins. The Lord's Supper is a time for Christians to remember the sacrifice.

I Corinthians 11:25-26 says: *"In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, 'this cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."*

Christians remember that Jesus died in our place as the substitute for our sins. God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us. Every lie you have ever told, every word of painful gossip, every lustful thought, every act of adultery, every murder ever committed, every sin ever committed was poured on Him.

I Corinthians 5:7b – *"For indeed, Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us."*



See also Isaiah 53:6. and John 1:29

The Practice of the Lord's Supper

Some churches observe the Lord's Supper every time they gather for worship. At Calvary, we observe this time of remembrance each quarter. Calvary also practices what is known as "open communion." This means that anyone who has professed Christ as Savior and is seeking to follow Him can observe the Lord's Supper with us.

 A FAQ's page with additional information regarding the Lord's Supper is included in the Helpful Information section of this workbook.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Coming to personal faith in Jesus as our Savior is the beginning of a journey, one that Paul describes as Christ being formed in us (Gal. 4:19), the renewing of our minds (Rom. 12:2) and coming to the stature of the fullness of Christ (Eph. 4:13). Whether we've been following Christ for six weeks or 60 years, God is always inviting us to take our next step of spiritual maturity.

Calvary's values help guide us as we consider what our next step of spiritual growth might be. We can ask questions like:

- Are we pursuing **life transformation** over simply receiving more information?
- Are we engaged in **lifestyle worship** over just having a Sunday experience?
- Are we practicing **generous living** rather than being content with ordinary giving?

In the next section we will share some specific opportunities for you to take your next steps of spiritual growth at Calvary.

Daily Time with God

We strongly encourage every believer to have daily time alone with God. You might think of this as having a conversation with a close friend where the two of you talk about something your friend shared with you.

Begin by spending part of your time reading God's Word as if Jesus was speaking directly to you. As you read, notice the things that stand out to you. Then spend some time talking to God in prayer about the things that His Spirit just impressed upon you. This makes our daily time with God two-way conversation.

 You will find additional suggestions for your daily time with God in the Helpful Information section of this handbook. You will also find a series of devotional studies designed to help you understand the gospel and lead you deeper in your work with God in Part 3 of this handbook.

LIFESTYLE GENEROSITY

One of Calvary's values is expressed as, "Generous living over ordinary giving." Lifestyle generosity is our being generous with all that we have realizing that all that we have has been given to us from God: our time, our talent, our service our finances.

My Time - Relationships

Taking the time to develop relationships with a spiritual basis is one way of using my time for God. It is through relationship that we connect out to others, in with believers and up to God. Lifestyle generosity is giving my time to others so I may serve them in the name of Jesus. This leads to open doors allowing me to tell my story and speak the peace of God into the brokenness of life.

- **Your Next:** Identify two people and connect out this week by investing in their lives, inviting them to Calvary and including them in your small group.

My Talent - Finding your place

The PLACE inventory is a guided process of understanding your unique blend of personality, spiritual gifting, abilities, interests and experiences so as to identify the most effective place of service.

- **Your Next:** Sign up for the next PLACE class when it is offered at Calvary or meet with one of our Connections Coaches. Visit www.calvarynow.com/NextSteps for more information.

My Service - Training & Vocation

God often uses the training and skillsets we have developed in our careers for eternal purposes. Vocations such as construction, education, business, medicine and many other fields can provide significant opportunities to participate in local or global projects with a Kingdom focus.

- **Your Next:** Use the **Next Steps** Response form to tell us about your vocational and previous ministry experiences.

My Finances - Stewardship & Generosity

Generous living recognizes that giving is a heart issue, that God owns it all, and that giving brings joy both now and for eternity. When I give to the Lord through Calvary, I am supporting all of Calvary's ministries to all generations, both locally and globally. It is the regular, faithful stewardship of church members that funds the mission and vision of the church. Every member has the privilege and responsibility of financial stewardship and generosity.

We invite you to visit annualreport.calvarynow.com to learn more about the impact of your giving through Calvary.

- **Your Next:** If you have not yet made your first gift to Calvary, consider doing so this week
 - **In person** during any of our weekly worship services
 - **By text** @ 336.600.1051

- **Your Next:** If you are already giving to the Lord through Calvary, visit our website to learn about other giving options like automatic bill-pay and non-cash contributions that might be of interest to you.
 - **Visit** www.calvarynow.com/givingoptions

You can also use your **Next Steps** Response form to request to speak with someone regarding specific giving opportunities.



PART THREE / WHAT'S NEXT

Whether you have recently trusted Christ for salvation or you have been following Him for many years, God is asking each of us to take the next step of our spiritual journey.

We don't know what your next step needs to be ... that is between you and the Lord. And for each of us, it will be something different from the next person. But in this final section of our Starting Point class, we want you to think with us about what it means to connect up, in and out.



Visit calvarynow.com/startingpoint
for additional membership information and resources.

CONNECT UP

Connecting up to God through worship begins with our receiving His grace and salvation. As His Spirit gives us new life, we then respond in repentance and obedience. And one of our first steps of obedience for a Christ follower is to be baptized as a public demonstration of our faith.

Salvation

If you recently placed your faith in Jesus Christ for salvation, we'd like to know that. Or if you are sensing the need to take that next step, then we would love to talk with you about that.

Baptism

If you have already placed your faith in Jesus Christ for salvation but you have not yet been baptized as a public testimony of your salvation, there is no reason to delay. We have team members who can walk with you as you take this next step.

Your Next

If you recently received Christ as your Savior, you are ready to be baptized as an expression of your faith, or you would like to talk to someone about your relationship to Christ, please check the appropriate box in your **Next Steps** Response form.

CONNECTING UP . Personal Faith 

- I recently placed my faith in Jesus Christ for salvation
- I am requesting Believer's Baptism by immersion
- I would like to talk with someone about my personal faith

Corporate Worship

One of the ways believers worship God is by joining with other believers in corporate worship. In our corporate gatherings, our worship is expressed as we praise God through music, give of our tithes and offerings, pray together and study God's Word together.

At Calvary you can experience several different worship styles, from our more hymn-driven worship style at the 8:00 service, to a more contemporary band-driven worship style at the 9:15 (Elevate) and Calvary West services, to a blended style at our 10:45 service. And all of these services are streamed live online so you can join us for worship even when you are travelling or unable to attend one of our campuses. Go to www.calvarynow.com and click the link for our Online Services in the lower right corner of the page.

Private Worship

One of the ways to cultivate a lifestyle of worship is through the daily practice reading God's Word and talking with Him through prayer. If this is not a regular part of your spiritual journey, then we encourage you to take the time for regular Bible reading and prayer.

i Please read the article entitled *Conversations with God*, by Dr. Gary Chapman in the Helpful Information section of this Handbook.

Lifestyle Worship

But worship is more than just the gathering of believers for a church service. At Calvary we value a lifestyle of worship over the Sunday experience. In this sense, worship is an upward focus or a God-focus that defines our life.

Your Next

Along with participation in weekly worship and small group discipleship, we encourage you to develop the discipline of spending time with God every day through Bible reading and prayer.

CONNECT IN — Membership

Membership Matters

If God is calling you to be a part of the Calvary family, then we encourage you to complete the membership process. The importance of being part of a local fellowship of believers is discussed in an article called *Membership Matters*, in the Helpful Information section of your Calvary Handbook.

Membership Requirements

At Calvary the prerequisites for church membership are simple. We want to know that you have placed your faith in Christ for salvation, that you have been baptized by immersion and that you have completed the Starting Point class.

Membership Processes

Individuals begin the membership process by completing a Next Steps Response form and requesting church membership. Once you have taken that step, one of our team members will guide you regarding any other steps you might need to take.

Your Next

If you are ready to make Calvary your church home, please check the appropriate box in your **Next Steps** Response form.

CONNECTING IN . Church Membership



- I would like to begin the church membership process (**check one**):
 - Joining by **Baptism** by immersion (I am ready to be baptized)
 - Joining by **Statement** (of faith and previous baptism by immersion)
 - Joining by **Transfer of membership** (from a Baptist church)
 - Has given clear testimony of personal faith in Christ to _____
- Previous Church/Affiliation**
Church Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
- I am not currently a member of another church

CONNECT IN — Groups and Teams

Discipleship Groups

Calvary offers a variety of small group opportunities but each of them shares the same value of “life transformation over more information.” If you have not yet joined a group, please visit www.calvarynow.com/discipleship for a complete listing of our current groups.

Serving Teams

Calvary’s ministry teams allow individuals to invest their lives for the kingdom purposes. Whether that is welcoming guests to worship, teaching the Bible to a group or serving in the community, ministry teams are groups of individuals who come together to serve, to fellowship and to help connect others to Christ and community.

Your Next

If you are ready to join a small group or begin serving on a ministry team, please check the appropriate box in your **Next Steps** Response form.

CONNECTING IN . Discipleship Groups ✕

I am currently attending the _____ Bible Fellowship Class

I would like information on the available Bible Fellowship classes

CONNECTING IN . Serving Teams ✕

I am currently serving on the _____ Serving Team

I would like information regarding Calvary serving teams

I have previously served in the following areas _____

CONNECT OUT

You may have noticed that we often list “Connect Out” as the first of our three strategies. The reason for this is simple: As believers we have been called to be ambassadors for Christ, sharing the good news of His salvation at every opportunity He gives us.

Missions

Calvary is a missions-focused church. From the support of career missionaries to the sending of believers on short-term mission trips to our strategic partnerships around the globe, Calvary is committed to sharing the gospel of Christ which brings the peace of God to the brokenness of our world.

Community Serve

Calvary’s outward focus isn’t simply to the “ends of the earth,” it is also right here at home in Forsyth and Davie counties. Through our partnership with nearly 20 local agencies, Calvary members are seeking to speak the peace of God into the brokenness of our own community.

Missions Offerings

Each year, in December and throughout the year, Calvary collects a special offering for world evangelism. In recent years Calvary has given over \$1 million a year in support of missions both at home and around the globe.

Your Next

If the thought of being involved with our community partnerships or in world evangelism excites you, or if you are feeling called to step outside your comfort zone, then we would encourage you to indicate this in the Connect Out section of your Next Steps Response form.

Life on Mission

Calvary is a large multisite church. But for all that happens inside the walls of this church, the greatest potential for evangelism occurs as our members engage others through the normal rhythms of life. You may hear us refer to this as “living sent” as we seek to be on mission with God all day, every day.

Two of the questions we often ask each other are these:

- Am I engaging others who are not like me?, and
- Am I sharing my story with someone this week?

To make that practical in your own life you can look for ways to:

- Invest in two people’s lives each week
- Invite them to church at Calvary, and
- Include them in your small group.

Your Next

Your next step might be to write out your personal testimony so you are prepared to share it when God gives you the opportunity. Calvary will soon be posting on our website stories of how God is at work in the lives of those around us and you will have the opportunity to add your own story.

Or maybe your next step is to apply for a passport so you will be ready to go on an international mission trip. Or maybe you simply need to begin praying for two people you can invest, invite and include at Calvary. If we can help you take your next step in this area, please let us know that in the Connect Out section of your Next Steps Response form.

CONNECTING OUT <>

- I would like to talk with someone about local mission opportunities
- I would like to talk with someone about global mission opportunities
- I commit to praying for opportunities to engage two people each week

FINAL THOUGHTS

Thank you again for taking your time to join us for a Starting Point class. We know that this class was simply one step in your journey and we pray that it has been a benefit to you.

If God is working in your heart and you would like to speak with us about something, please don't leave without sharing that with us. Any one of us would welcome the opportunity to help you discover the joy of knowing and serving God with others.

NEXT STEPS CLASS

We are encouraging everyone to attend the **Next Steps** class whether they are new to Calvary or have been members for 50 years. In that class we'll take a deeper look at:

- Calvary's Next ... Alignment with our mission
- Your Next ... Alignment with God's mission, and
- What's Next ... Opportunities for alignment

Your Next

The Next Steps class will be offered at various times each month. You can watch the Sunday ministry guide for more information or go online to www.calvarynow.com/nextsteps for specific dates, times and registration information.