



NEW MEMBERS.



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WELCOME.

WEEK 01

This class is broken into two sections.

The first section is about hearing about our church's mission, culture, and focus. We will discuss our Sunday morning Small Group Fellowship classes, Wednesday evening classes, and upcoming Home Group Fellowships.

WEEK 02

In the second section, we will hear from everyone regarding their testimony, baptism, and desire to join church with us.

At the end of the next week, if you wish to choose to join us we will present you to the church body for membership.

WEEK 01



DISCOVER 5 BRIDGES

Who We Are As a Church

5 Bridges Culture

5 Bridges Mission

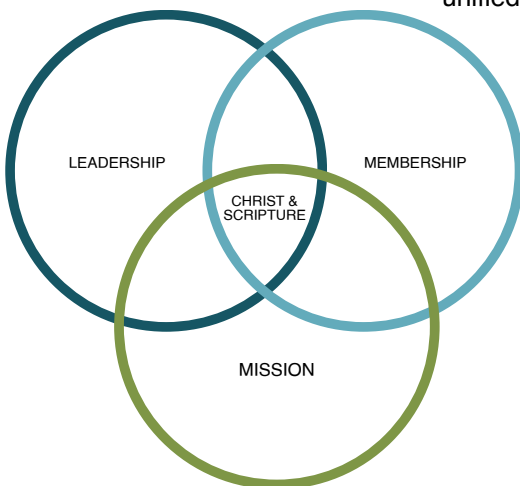
DISCOVER 5 BRIDGES

WHO WE ARE AS A CHURCH

5 Bridges Church is a gathering of believers that recognizes and affirms God's sovereignty by prioritizing expository preaching, intentional discipleship, and devotion to the whole counsel of God.

THE MISSION

The mission of 5 Bridges is understood in three distinct yet unified categories.



At 5 Bridges, we prioritize three key distinctions (as seen in Acts) concerning principles to implement in our church body.

01 AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE

Each member of 5 Bridges recognizes and understands the Scripture is the inspired Word of God written by man for our benefit for teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness (2 Tim. 3:16). We are obedient to obey what God reveals to us in His Word.

02 DEVOTION

The members of 5 Bridges devote themselves to the Lord, to the authority of the leadership model, and to the health of the church physically and spiritually (Hebrews 13:7; 1 Timothy 5:17). When we are all devoted to the shared mission and authority of God's Word, this prevents us from misguidance, misunderstanding, and promotes a healthy Christ-centered church culture.

03 UNIFICATION

As a church, 5 Bridges members will demonstrate unity in their prioritization of the Scripture, the intentional nature of intergenerational discipleship, searching and studying Scripture on their own, and allowing Scripture to reveal truth aside from opinion by obeying the commands of God (Acts 17:11; Psalm 86:11).

Our mission is to worship God, cultivate biblical community, and engage the world and our community for God's glory. This mission plays out in three different spaces of fellowship:

01 SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

As members of 5 Bridges, we gather in small group fellowships to discuss with other believers, learn from other believers, and disciple each other in the Word of God (Hebrews 10:23-25).

Each small group fellowship meets at 9:00, and we systematically go through Scripture for spiritual growth and learning that coincides with the Scriptural sermons in corporate worship during our service hour.

02 MDWK I WEDNESDAY EVENING GATHERINGS

Our Wednesday evening gathering focuses on teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayers (Acts 2:42-47). We gather at 5:00 for dinner and as a time to connect with other families and believers for edification, friendship, and community development, aiding in developing the Christ-centered culture of our church body.

Our Wednesday evening classes engage in theology, apologetics, and men's- and women's-specific development, equipping the believer in all aspects of developing and maintaining a Christian worldview (Titus 2; Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Timothy 2:2; Ephesians 4:1-6).

03 HOME GATHERINGS

Throughout the year, 5 Bridges organizes and oversees several Home Gatherings, which meet in various homes and places in our community. In these gathering spaces, you can learn and live and discuss the Word with other believers.

3 THINGS FELLOWSHIPS PROVIDE

01 A PLACE TO CONNECT AND BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS

“See how great a love the Father has given to us, that we would be called children of God; and we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.”

1 John 3:1

God created us for fellowship and biblical community. Fellowship groups provide a place to connect with others, grow in faith, and build relationships centered on Christ.

02 A PLACE TO PROTECT EACH OTHER

“By this we have known love, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

1 John 3:16

Therefore, comfort one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

We see that we are to have all things in common and be of one accord. Additionally, we know what real love is because Jesus gave up His life for us. So we should also give up our lives for our brothers and sisters.

03 A PLACE TO GROW TOGETHER

“Iron sharpens iron, So one man sharpens another.”

Proverbs 27:17

“but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, that is Christ.”

Ephesians 4:15

Throughout the book of Acts, we see the biblical principle of the members of the first church prioritizing spending time together. As we gather on Sundays, Wednesdays, and at Home Gatherings, we will grow in sanctification together as we continue to encourage and edify one another in Christ.

HOW FELLOWSHIPS WORK

A Fellowship 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 Fellowship Groups that God will help us grow together.

People form groups around what matters in their lives. This can look like connecting with people who share similar interests or are at the same stage in life, as well as finding people who have experience in an area where you want to grow, as demonstrated in Titus 2.

Fellowship Groups are also where we pray for each other and support each other. Fellowship Groups meet once a week at church and also in different locations all around our county, and with many groups to choose from, we believe there is a group here for you.

4 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

01 OUR GROUPS FOCUS ON INTENTIONAL TEACHING DISCIPLESHIP FOCUSED.

Each Sunday-Morning, Wednesday-Evening, and Home-Gathering-Fellowship leaders are free to use their gifts and talents in delivering discipleship-focused fellowship groups. Our groups fall under one of the following categories.

Empty Nesters	Children
Young Families	Students
Men	Family
Women	Apologetics/Theology

02 WE HAVE THREE SEMESTERS EVERY YEAR

Winter, spring, fall—our lives are structured in seasons, and 5 Bridges works within these constructs to systematically and progressively build an effective and sustainable Fellowship Group experience. This allows you to stay with the same group or explore other studies that interest you.

03 WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO JOIN A GROUP

Getting involved in one or more Fellowship Groups is the best way to get to know the men and women at 5 Bridges. You can register for one of these groups by visiting our Next Steps desk or finding more information in our Church Center Application.

04 YOU CAN HOST A HOME GATHERING OR LEAD A GROUP

5 Bridges is committed to equipping our people to glorify God, cultivate biblical community, and engage the World for the Glory of God. We desire that everyone serves or leads in one area or another.

BE A HOME GATHERING HOST.

By opening up your home at specific times convenient for your season of life and work schedule. By opening your home, you are influencing and demonstrating to your neighbors the intentional gathering of believers to engage directly in your backyard. When people meet in your home, you are opening up the home God has gifted you and using it to serve the body, inviting others from 5 Bridges and your neighborhood to be a part of the gathering.

FELLOWSHIP LEADER.

A fellowship leader becomes a teacher on the semester rotation to step into the teaching and to lead a Sunday morning or Wednesday evening group to structure the schedule, discuss the lessons, encourage dialogue, and assign ways for group members to get involved at 5 Bridges.

*If you are interested in becoming a Fellowship Leader or a Home Gathering Host, we encourage you to:

- Attend and participate in a current Fellowship Group
- Become a member of 5 Bridges Church
- Attend a Leader Training event (hosted once a quarter)

WEEK 02



UNDERSTAND OUR
DENOMINATION &
OUR CHURCH
DISTINCTIVES

Denomination

Leadership Model

What We Teach

3 THINGS ABOUT OUR DENOMINATION

01 SOUTHERN BAPTIST

We are a Southern Baptist Church and adhere to the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.

02 CREDO-BAPTISM

We believe in Credo-Baptism.

Credo-Baptism is a compound word. Credo means “I believe,” and baptism means “to dip or immerse.”

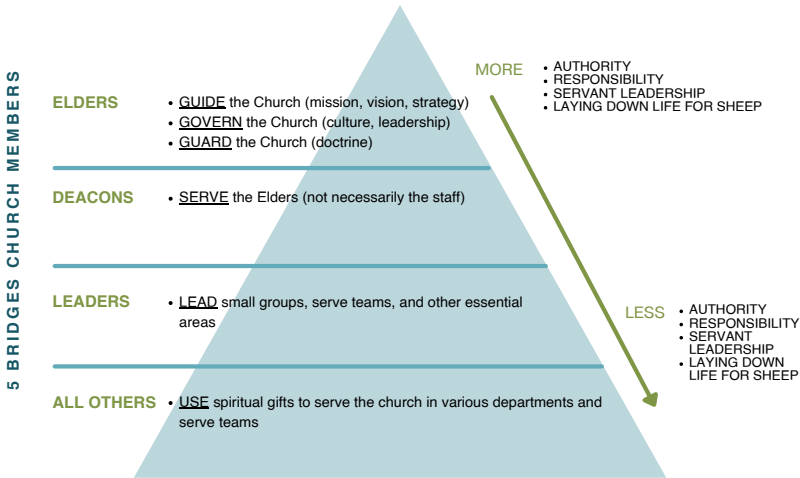
In this belief, also known as believer’s baptism, a Christian gets baptized with water after they have confessed and professed (belief) in Jesus Christ. In this view, baptism does not contribute to salvation in any way but rather serves as an outward symbol of the inward reality of a believer’s salvation obtained by grace through faith in Jesus, which includes His death and resurrection.

03 OUR LEADERSHIP MODEL

God has ordained that the leadership of local churches is to be by Pastors, Elders, and Deacons (Philip. 1:1; Acts 6:1-7; 14:23).

5 Bridges leadership model operates as a plurality of elders as this is the only biblical model for church leadership and governance. The words “elder,” “overseer,” “bishop,” “presbyter,” and “pastor” (Acts 20:17,28; Ephesians 4:11) are all used interchangeably to describe this ministry in the New Testament.

The pastoral oversight of the churches of the New Testament was a team effort.



CHURCH LEADERSHIP

WHAT WE TEACH.

At 5 Bridges, we adhere to the Baptist Faith and Message (BFM 200). In addition to the BFM, 5 Bridges draws its heritage as a Southern Baptist Church to the historical understanding of the distinctions and differences between Protestant denominations and others.

Evangelical churches today are increasingly dominated by the spirit of this age rather than by the Spirit of Christ. As evangelicals, we call ourselves to repent of this sin and to recover the historic Christian faith.

In the course of history, words change. In our day, this has happened to the word "evangelical." In the past, it served as a bond of unity between Christians from a wide diversity of church traditions. Historic evangelicalism was confessional. It embraced the essential truths of Christianity as those were defined by the great ecumenical councils of the church. In addition, evangelicals also shared a common heritage in the "solas" of the sixteenth-century Protestant Reformation.

Today the light of the Reformation has been significantly dimmed.

The consequence is that the word "evangelical" has become so inclusive as to have lost its meaning. We face the peril of losing the unity it has taken centuries to achieve. Because of this crisis and our love of Christ, his gospel, and his church, we endeavor to assert our commitment to the central truths of the Reformation and historic evangelicalism anew. We affirm these truths, not because of their role in our traditions but because we believe they are central to the Bible.

WHAT WE TEACH

01

Sola Scriptura

Scripture Alone

We reaffirm the inerrant Scripture as the sole source of written divine revelation, which alone can bind the conscience. The Bible alone teaches all that is necessary for our salvation from sin and is the standard by which all Christian behavior must be measured.

We deny that any creed, council, or individual may bind a Christian's conscience, that the Holy Spirit speaks independently of or contrary to what is outlined in the Bible, or that personal spiritual experience can ever be a vehicle of revelation.

02

Solus Christus

Christ Alone

We reaffirm that our salvation is accomplished by the mediatorial work of the historical Christ alone. His sinless life and substitutionary atonement alone are sufficient for our justification and reconciliation to the Father.

We deny that the gospel is preached if Christ's substitutionary work is not declared and faith in Christ and his work is not solicited.

03

Sola Gratia

Grace Alone

We reaffirm that in salvation, we are rescued from God's wrath by his grace alone. The supernatural work of the Holy Spirit brings us to Christ by releasing us from our bondage to sin and raising us from spiritual death to spiritual life.

We deny that salvation is in any sense a human work. Human methods, techniques, or strategies by themselves cannot accomplish this transformation. Faith is not produced by our unregenerated human nature.

04

Sola Fide

Faith Alone

We reaffirm that justification is by grace alone through faith alone because of Christ alone. In justification, Christ's righteousness is imputed to us as the only possible satisfaction of God's perfect justice.

We deny that justification rests on any merit to be found in us, or upon the grounds of an infusion of Christ's righteousness in us, or that an institution claiming to be a church that denies or condemns sola fide can be recognized as a legitimate church.

05

Soli Deo Gloria

Glory of God Alone

We reaffirm that because salvation is of God and has been accomplished by God, it is for His glory, and we must always glorify him. We must live our entire lives before the face of God, under the authority of God, and for his glory alone.

We deny that we can properly glorify God if our worship is confused with entertainment, if we neglect either Law or Gospel in our preaching, or if self-improvement, self-esteem, or self-fulfillment are allowed to become alternatives to the gospel.

TAKING THE NEXT STEPS

How to Join

Membership Covenant



WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?



We ask you to prayerfully consider taking the next step in joining the body at 5 Bridges church. To become a member, you have already taken the necessary first steps. By attending this class, you have learned about the church's mission, the structure of our Fellowship Groups, and the organization, leadership, and doctrinal distinctive of what we teach.

Sadly, many churches do not adequately explain or provide the necessary steps for church membership leading to a lack of involvement from actual members or feeling of the commitment to be an active member of the church body.

In 2019, Lifeway research demonstrated that between 3,500-4,000 churches close their doors each year, never to reopen. The primary cause of church decline today is a lack of church membership and involvement.

To maintain the integrity and unity of the church, each prospective member is asked to pray carefully and consider the Spirit's guidance in joining our church body.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

In accordance with our church bylaws, these are the necessary conditions for membership into the church body:

- A person must be a believer in Jesus Christ who gives evidence of salvation, who has been baptized, in obedience to Christ, following his or her salvation, and who wholeheartedly believes in the Christian faith as revealed in the Bible.
- Must agree and affirm and agree to the teaching of Scripture as expressed in the Articles of Faith of this Church, and must promise to keep the commitments expressed in the Church Covenant.
- They must serve, use their talents, and sacrificially give time, money, and resources to the need of the church.

If you meet and agree with these conditions, please review the membership covenant below that is necessary for each man and woman coming into the membership body of 5 Bridges.

Upon completing this class and your affirmation and commitment to this church body, you will be presented in front of the church (at a time convenient for you and your family) for the public affirmation of your commitment to this church.



MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

As a member of 5 BRIDGES CHURCH, having been brought by divine grace to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and then scripturally baptized, we do covenant before God as enabled by His Holy Spirit to: Not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for worship and service, but honor the Word of God and will seek to follow those who have the spiritual responsibility for us.

We covenant together, God helping us, that we will live life under the Lordship of Jesus Christ in every area; love one another, pray for one another, care for one another in sickness and distress, and seek to help one another grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. We will put away from us all bitterness, wrath, anger, and evil speaking; and we will be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another even as God, for Christ's sake, has forgiven us.

We will, relying on the power of the Holy Spirit, live a biblical lifestyle, accepting the Word of God as our authority for faith and everyday living. We will be good stewards of all that God has given us, we will be just in our dealings, maintaining the unity of the body, and we will give as God has prospered us, not grudgingly or of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver.

We will seek to win others to Christ by sharing the Gospel in word and deed.

As we have the opportunity, we will do good to everyone, especially those who are of the household of faith.

We will strive to carry out His commission to spread the Gospel throughout the whole world.

We will contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

We will, when we move from this place, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

**WORSHIP.
CULTIVATE.
ENGAGE.**