“Joy of Belonging” class

Purpose: To know what it means to goAll Inand become a Memberof Honolulu AG.

*Commitment #1*

**I will follow Jesus as the Way, the Truth, and the Life.**

Most people live their whole lives without ever knowing **why**.

We believe God has made it clear what His **purpose** for our lives is.

1. God made you to love you!
(Jeremiah 31:3, Ephesians 1:4-5)
2. God wants to have a personal relationship with you (John 10:10).
3. You have sinned and lived your life apart from God’s rule (Isaiah 53:6).
4. Jesus has paid for your sins with His death and resurrection (Romans 5:8).

**1 Timothy 2:5-6**

For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men….

**What does God expect you to do in response to what He has done for you?**

1. Admit that God has not been first place in your life.
2. Believe that Jesus died to pay for your sins and rose again (Romans 10:9).
3. Confess Him as Savior and Lord and accept God’s free gift of salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9).

You can take these steps by praying a simple prayer of commitment.

*Dear God, thank You for loving me even when I’ve ignored You and have gone my own way. Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, into the world to die on the cross for me. I am sorry for my sins and I ask You to forgive me. Please help me to understand You more. I want to follow You from now on. Please come into my life. I accept Your free gift of salvation. Amen!*

*Commitment #2*

**I will be baptized by immersion in water**

**as a believer, if I have not yet done so.**

The first big step of obedience every new believer in Jesus should take is to be baptized by immersion in water.

**Why should I be baptized?**

1. To follow the example set by Jesus
(Mark 1:9).
2. Because Jesus commands it
(Matthew 28:19-20).
3. It demonstrates that I really am a believer;
it is a witness to others of my new life
(Acts 18:8, 1 John 2:3).

**What does baptism mean?**

1. It illustrates Christ’s death and resurrection (Colossians 2:12).
2. It illustrates my new life as a Christian (Romans 6:4).

**Why baptism by immersion?**

1. Jesus was baptized this way (Matthew 3:16).
2. Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion (Acts 8:38-39).
3. Greek word *baptizo* means to dip under water.
4. It best symbolizes a burial and resurrection.

**We believe that everyone who has personally received Jesus Christ should be baptized after receiving Him.** We speak honorably of the commitment parents make when they have their children baptized, but we see it as similar to child dedication. So we ask that those who were baptized only as infants to be baptized as believers.

**We baptize whenever the need arises.** We invite people to decide spontaneously to be baptized but we also believe in the value of inviting loved ones. If you are ready to be baptized in water, now is the time.

**We invite friends and family members to participate in baptisms**. This is a time for rejoicing. It will be a witness to your family, friends and others.

**The story of how you came to know Jesus as your Savior is valuable**. Everyone at your baptism will want to hear it also.

*Special Topic*

**Holy Communion** (The Lord’s Supper)

Jesus never asked His disciples to remember His birth. But He did instruct them to remember His death and resurrection. He gave the church two visible symbols (called “ordinances”) as reminders of His death. These two ordinances are: Baptism and The Lord’s Supper.

The Lord’s Supper is an object lesson that represents a great spiritual truth for believers.

According to 1 Corinthians 11:23-26...

**What is the Lord’s Supper?**

1. It is a simple act (v. 23)
2. It is a reminder (v. 24)
3. It is a symbol (v. 25)
4. It is a statement of faith (v. 26

**Who should take the Lord’s Supper?**

All believers (v. 29)

**How do I prepare myself for Communion?**

1. Self-examination
(v. 27)
2. Recommitment
(Romans 12:1)
3. Confession of sin
(1 John 1:9)
4. Restoring relationships
(Matthew 5:23-24)

**When and how often should we observe the Lord’s Supper?**

Jesus never said when or how often believers should observe The Lord’s Supper.

At Honolulu AG, our desire is that the Lord’s Supper be a teaching and learning moment in addition to being a worship moment. We observe Holy Communion on the first Sunday of every month.

*Commitment #3*

**I will grow in grace** (by being Spirit-filled) **and knowledge** (by having a quiet time)**.**

Attending worship services each week is a great start but there are at least two personal habits you need to develop in your **daily** life.

**1. Developing a quiet time for prayer and Bible reading.**

* Hearing God’s Word
(Romans 10:17)
* Reading God’s Word
(Revelation 1:3)
* Studying God’s Word
(Acts 17:11)
* Memorizing God’s Word
(Proverbs 7:2-3)
* Meditating on God’s Word
(Psalm 1:2-3)

**In my daily prayer time, I am:**

* Giving devotion to God
(2 Chronicles 31:21)
* Getting direction from God
(Psalm 25:4-5)

**2. Living under the influence of the Holy Spirit continually.**

The Holy Spirit isn’t a substance or a mystical, cosmic force. The Holy Spirit is God – our personal God. He’s the third member of the Trinity.

The New Testament talks about believers being “filled with” the Holy Spirit, which has to do with being under his influence.

How do we live under the Spirit’s influence?

* Seek to be filled with the Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues
(Acts 2:4)
* Remove all the barriers
(Acts 2:38)
* Relate to Him daily
(2 Corinthians 13:14)
* Remain under His influence
(Ephesians 5:18