

**Young Bible Study Group**  
**A Fellowship of Genuine Believers in Jesus Christ**  
***“Do All For to the Glory of God”***  
**1 Corinthians 10:31**

**Our Mission:** Our mission is to be a fellowship, a gathering, a ‘church’ in the true sense of the word (‘ekklesia’) being of genuine faithful believers united in Christ who faithfully trust in, and serve Christ. As faithful followers in Christ we strive to be a source to all people where the Word of God is purely taught and heard, where worship and prayer are heartfelt, effective and genuine, and the Sacraments (Holy Communion and Baptism) administered according to Christ’s institution. Our vision is to be a family of genuine, faithful believers united in Christ, to be a body with Christ as the head, the cornerstone, and who aspire to continually grow and mature in their faith and trust in Him. We aim to be a loving group who support and encourage others through the knowledge of the Lord, who proclaim and teach the Word centered on Christ, and where the searching and the broken are drawn to the saving light, love, and comfort of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our mission statement is well said by Apostle Paul in ***Ephesians 4: 11-16*** as he stresses the purpose, purity and unity of the church, united in Christ:

***“He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ until we all attain the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God to mature manhood to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”***

***Our Purpose ~ The Church’s Purpose to Glorify God is carried out through our ministry which is to:***

1. **Minister to God:** to genuinely worship and give Glory to God from the heart through praise, study, prayer, service and through the way we live our lives with the goal to bring people to know God – helping to bring them to come to belief in and to grow in faith and trust in Jesus Christ.
2. **Minister to Believers and Non-Believers:** To minister to all people, helping to bring unbelievers to faith in Jesus Christ, and strive to continue to nurture all believers, new and mature, to encourage and help build them up to further maturity in the faith (Col 1:28) with the goal to present to God every Christian ‘mature in Christ’. Through our ministry, we will encourage and build up our family of Christian believers to live in a

manner worthy of the adoption, holiness, and unity to which they have been called (Ephesians 4:1).

**3. Minister to the World through Evangelism and Mercy:**

- a. To help bring people to saving faith and eternal security through God's Grace and to further help them mature in their faith and 'walk worthy' (Ephesians 4:1) through the knowledge of God's Word and application to their lives
- b. To do the evangelistic work of declaring the Gospel to the world, through teaching, preaching, prayer, worship,
- c. To demonstrate God's mercy through care for the needy in the Name of the Lord

**4. To Minister the Fellowship Group to Establish and Maintain the Purity and Unity of the Church:**

- a. *Purity of the church:* Freedom from wrong doctrine and conduct and always striving to do God's Will for the church – we will do this through being vertically **God-Centered** in mindset and actions
- b. *Unity:* Freedom from divisions among true Christians, striving for unity of all true believers under Christ. Recognition that God gives the church an amazing variety of spiritual gifts, which are a token of his varied grace, and that a healthy church will have a variety and diversity of gifts. This diversity should not lead to fragmentation or division of the group, but to greater unity among believers in the church (1 Peter 4:10, 1 Cor 12:12-26).

**5. To be "in The Spirit" ~ To Carry Out Our Ministry Through Being Filled With The Holy Spirit:** To consciously dwell in the presence created by the Holy Spirit – the atmosphere of power, love, joy, truth, holiness, righteousness, and peace – the sense of the presence of the Holy Spirit himself, an atmosphere of God's manifested presence, "in the Spirit," ministering in God's strength according to His will (Acts 9:31, Revelation 1:10)

***To Accomplish our Mission and Purposes of Glorifying God Our Aim is to practice:***

1. Teaching of sound, pure, God-Centered Biblical Doctrine – the Word of God (The Holy Bible) is purely taught and preached. Application to living the Christian life is emphasized through teaching, prayer and guidance of the Holy Spirit.
2. Genuine worship
3. Effective prayer
4. Effective fellowship
5. Spiritual power in ministry through members striving to and being filled with the Holy Spirit
6. Effective witness
7. Personal holiness of life among members – walk worthy
8. Growth of the church toward Christian maturity and maintaining purity – remain God-centered
9. Right use of church discipline (according to Matthew 18:15-17)
10. Love, trust and genuine faithfulness for the Triune of God - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

**What we Believe:**

**The Holy Trinity:** We believe in the doctrine of the **Holy Trinity** (three-in-oneness)– **The Triune God - God eternally exists of one substance as three persons – God The Father, God The Son, and God The Holy Spirit. Each person is fully God, with eternal equality of each, but each has a distinct role in which they relate to each other and to the Creation. We believe there is one living, true God, infinite in being and perfection.**

**God, the Father,** is Sovereign and Creator of all things! He brings everything into existence in Heaven and on earth – in the universe! He is infinite in being and perfection, eternal, unchanging, self-existent and not dependent on anything else, abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, powerful, wise, good, majestic, merciful, just, the owner of all things, and the judge of all. He is the same yesterday today and forever (Exodus 34, Exodus 3, Hebrews 13:8). God, the Father, The Creator of Heaven, earth and everything and every being who exists. Nothing exists apart from the Creator – the creative and sustaining power of God – we must answer to Him and therefore we owe Him honor and must be submissive and obedient to Him and always do His will. God’s power is seen in His creation and especially in humanity who He created as His imagers. God’s personal creation of all humans is the basis for human purpose and meaning. He is the praiseworthy source of all that is. God has no unmet needs but humans bring delight to His heart as we trust and obey him. God’s delight in our Spirit-empowered faithfulness is the believer’s greatest motive for holy living in the Christian life. Our deepest desire should be to find our greatest joy in bringing joy to the heart of our Creator, God.

**God, The Son, Jesus Christ,** is very and eternal God, of one substance and equal with the Father, who took upon the nature of humanity, yet without sin. Through the Son, Jesus Christ, the Godhead and humanity are joined in one person – very God and very man – One Christ. He is subordinate to the Father, but this subordination does not imply inferiority, but implies distinct personalities and roles in relationship to humanity and to each other. In this way God displays His glory through unity in diversity. God, in His eternal purpose, has chosen His only begotten, (Greek: Monogenes) Son, Jesus Christ, who is unique and one-of-a-kind to be the Mediator between God and man, to be the head and savior of the church, the Heir of all things, and Judge of the world. Through Jesus Christ, Son of God, God’s people will be redeemed, called, justified, sanctified and glorified.

We believe that God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, Jesus Christ, “that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). God has given us the knowledge of His glory through knowing His Son - “in the face of Jesus Christ” (2 Cor 4:6). Through God, the Son Jesus Christ, **God’s Plan of Salvation** for God’s people will be accomplished and ultimately come to fruition (See Plan of Salvation)

**God, the Holy Spirit,** sent by the Father and the Son, will indwell in faithful Jesus followers forever, functioning as Jesus’ emissary in his physical absence on earth. The Holy Spirit fulfills the promise of the divine presence as spoken by Jesus to his disciples,

***“The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to you remembrance all that I have said to you.”***

***John 14:26***

*The work of the Holy Spirit* is to manifest the active presence of God in the world, and especially in the church. The Holy Spirit, is a member of the Trinity in equality, whom Scripture represents as being present to do God’s work in the world, empowering believers for new life in the Lord (Joel 2:28, Matt 3:11) and for service to God through **spiritual gifts**. The Holy Spirit purifies us and empowers our faith, prepares us for service to God, reveals God’s Word and presence to us, enriches our speech and knowledge of the Lord, guides and directs us, gives us insight and discernment, unifies believers, and gives stronger or weaker evidence of the presence and blessing of God according to our response to him.

Spiritual gifts from God, all tokens of his varied Grace (1 Peter 4:10), are manifestations of the Holy Spirit given to believers (Romans 12:6-8, 1 Cor 7:7; 12:7-11, 28; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Peter 4:11) and is any ability that is empowered by the Holy Spirit which is used in any ministry of the church.

Spiritual gifts, empowered by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 12:7-11) are given to believers “for the common good” (1 Cor 12:7) and are to be used for “edification” (1 Cor 14:26), or for building up the church. There are many varied gifts, rich in diversity, and they may have different expressions as they are found in different people. The diversity of gifts should lead to greater unity and interdependence (so we depend on and appreciate each other’s gifts) in the church, which is a foretaste of the unity that believers will have in heaven (1 Cor 12, Eph 4:13). Importantly, spiritual gifts given to believers should always be used in a balanced way (along with sound doctrine, evangelism, purity) by the strength which God supplies to build up the church, and always in accordance with Scripture so that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ (1 Peter 4:10-11).

The Old Testament ‘offices’ of prophet, priest and king, which are fully manifested in our Lord Jesus Christ, could be taken as a list of three kinds of gifts that are a foreshadow of the greater new covenant power of the Holy Spirit sent by the Father and Son to faithful believers. Fuller work of the Holy Spirit within us will be manifested in the age to come (1 Cor 1:5,7) so the gifts of the Holy Spirit gives us a partial foretaste of the fuller working of the Holy Spirit which will be ours in the age to come.

- **Prophetic gifts:** anything that involves teaching, encouraging, exhorting or rebuking others
- **Priestly gifts:** involve showing mercy and care for those in need or involve interceding before God through prayer, praying in tongues
- **Kingly gifts:** anything having to do with leadership, administration or government or order in the church

## ***God's Covenant With Man of Saving Grace – God's Plan of Salvation ~ Saved by Faith in Christ Alone***

We believe in ***God's Plan of Salvation*** which is taught to us in the Holy Bible.

We believe we are saved through faith in Christ alone, who atoned for our sins through his life and death on the cross to earn our salvation.

Christ, the Son of God, who eternally existed with the Father and the Holy Spirit possessed all the attributes of God, became man, was born of a virgin, sent by God to be the perfect substitutionary sacrificial atonement and propitiation to God, the Father, for our sins. Jesus' once-for-all sacrifice bears God' wrath so God, The Father, is favorably disposed toward believers who have repented and have faith in Christ. We must turn to God in Christ, which means turning back from sin. If we repent (forsake and turn from our sin) and believe in, trust in, and commit ourselves to Christ we will seal our union Him through the Holy Spirit and God will account Christ's righteousness as our own. In this way we will be 'saved' from God's righteous wrath against our sins and have "salvation through faith in Christ" (2 Tim 3:15).

As stated above, we believe that we are eternally saved and secure by faith in Christ alone. Salvation is a gift from God, and based entirely on God's Sovereign Grace (His unmerited favor that brings blessing and joy) alone, not by human merit. God's gift of salvation has been given to Christians, but the evidence of that salvation is lived out in the Christian's life through the continual work of God's Spirit. As Christians, we are held responsible to grow in Godliness – we don't create our salvation by our actions, but we reflect, express it, and grow in our certainty of it through following Jesus' teachings (Matthew 5-7), and using Paul's list of fruit of the Spirit's work in us (Gal 5) which act as 'spiritual maps' in our personal examination to help us be on the path of salvation.

We believe our salvation and eternal life in fellowship with God is dependent upon the Sovereignty and grace of God and on the individual person believing and trusting in Christ. Those who have genuine faith in Christ are truly born again and will be kept by God's power, persevering in all circumstances, and growing as Christians in maturity through faith in Jesus Christ. All those who truly believe are sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, and have God's unchanging promise and guarantee of a right relationship with God (shalom ~ peace) and the inheritance of eternal life.

We believe that humanity was created by God in His image to eternally have fellowship and worship Him, but because of Adam and Eve's rebellion against God in the Garden of Eden, this relationship has been broken. Because of humanity's sin, humanity has incurred spiritual and physical death with resultant separation from God. Because all humanity has a sinful nature, we deserve to suffer God's righteous judgment. But Because of God's love, mercy and grace, God gave us the Promise of the Gospel through His Son, Jesus Christ (Protoevangelium in Genesis 3:15) and has, is, and will carry out His Plan of Salvation to ultimately restore the peace of the

eternal relationship with us and all of His creation, that was destroyed through our sin against Him. Creation will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. The heavens and the earth will pass away and be radically transformed (2 Peter 3, Revelation 21). God's people, the redeemed will be brought into the presence of God to live forever, living life as it was originally meant to be in the Garden of Eden.

We believe Jesus Christ is God, who became flesh – took on humanity, was born of the virgin Mary – and came to earth to dwell among us (John 1:14) for our Redemption in His Plan for our Salvation. Jesus Christ, fully human and fully Divine, Son of God, was sent to dwell among us to reveal to us God's Word and earn for us, God's Salvation. Through the work of Jesus Christ during His life on earth and through His dying for us on the cross He atoned for our sins. Jesus Christ, the Perfect Lamb of God, who served as our substitutionary sacrifice through the willing shedding of His blood, gave his life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45). He has paid the debt of sin, served as a propitiation for God's wrath against our sin – for all people who have faith and trust in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, the Messiah. All people with faith in Christ are justified by His shed blood.

We believe that Jesus clearly taught His deity – He lived the perfect, obedient to the Father, sinless life on earth, fulfilled prophecy associated with the coming of God himself, forgave sins, accepted worship, taught God's truth, and taught that he and the Father are one. He then suffered death on the cross as he gave his life as a ransom for us as he bore the penalty of God's wrath against us for our sin, was resurrected on the third day, and after ascending to Heaven sits at the Right Hand of God, the Father to be our High Priest in Heaven. He is the mediator on our behalf before God who hears our prayers and intercedes for us as Christians.

We believe that faithful believers in Jesus Christ are born of and are filled with the Holy Spirit who gives power and strength to do God's Will. The Holy Spirit is received by faith in the beginning of a believer's Christian life (Gal 3:2), given to every believer (1 Cor 12:7) and will continue to work according to our faith in our lives as we grow in our faith. We are to walk according to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, set our minds on the things of the Spirit and all of our ministry, whatever form it may take is to be done in the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:4-16). Spiritual gifts, being any gift that is empowered by the Holy Spirit which is used in any ministry of the church, are given for the common good and all are to be used to equip the saints (Christians) for the work of ministry and for building up the church (1 Cor 12, 14, Acts 1:8). We as believers receive a diversity of gifts which should lead to greater unity and interdependence in the body of Christ, the church. We believe that all gifts worked in us, are given to us from the Holy Spirit, "the same Lord and the same God (1 Cor 12:4-6) and that we should strive to excel in building up the church by learning which gifts are most needed in the church and pray that God would give those gifts to ourselves or to others (1 Cor 14:12). Our goal as a church is to be continually praying that God would allow people to find what their gifts are and to use them to mature in the body of Christ, building itself in love (Ephesians 4:16).

We believe that as Christians, we should continue to grow in our faith in Jesus Christ through empowerment of the Holy Spirit. We should repent from sin, have faith and trust in Jesus

Christ, and persevere through all circumstances living out our lives for the Glory of God. We as Christians are called to walk worthy as imagers of God, with Christ being our perfect example. We should ask for and be obedient to the direction of the Holy Spirit who gives us strength and wisdom to trust Christ and empowers us for service to our creator, Father God.

We believe in that Jesus Christ will come to earth again in His Second Coming when He will judge all mankind and receive His faithful followers to Himself as Children of God. Christ's return will bring God's Plan of Salvation to completion.

We can be sure that this fallen and cursed world will one day be made new by the One who created it in the first place God's Creation of the New heaven and earth is the final phase of His redeeming work as all of God's creation (including heaven and earth,) along with humanity, will be freed from the very presence of sin (Isa 66:17, 2 Pet 3:13, Revelation 21 and 22). The greatest blessing in a restored heaven and earth will be the glorious presence of God himself and of Jesus our Lord and Savior. *Fellowship with Jesus is what makes heaven to be heaven, and that is something that Christians will be proving true for all eternity!*

We believe as Children of God, we will dwell forever in the presence of the Glory of God and the Son in the New Heaven and New Earth with our Lord as King of kings and Lord of lords.

God's Plan is to save His people from their sins, and to bring his people fully and finally to himself. Christians experience salvation in a past and present sense, and we anticipate salvation in a future sense. Christians have been saved from the penalty of our sins (justification), we are currently being saved from the power of sin (sanctification), and one day when God's plan of salvation is completed and we are with Christ, we shall be like him and we shall be saved even from the very presence of sin (glorification).

This is what we believe...***we believe in God's Plan of Salvation through the Lord, Jesus Christ!***

***The Holy Bible*** - We believe the Holy Bible is God's Word to us in pure, true, written form (Psalm 12:6). Through pure teaching, prayer, and study we rely on the Holy Spirit to guide us as we learn God's Truth and mature in our faith through the study of His Word. The Bible points us to the Word of God as a person, namely Jesus Christ, whom we are to study and to imitate his life and teachings through focus on the Holy Bible (Hebrews 1:1-2). We believe the Bible is God's written Word that he commands us to study (Psalm 1:1-2, Joshua 1:8). It is the Word of God in the form of written Scripture that is "God-breathed" and "useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and reigning in righteousness" (2 Tim 3:16). We believe that through God's faithfulness to his people that there is nothing missing from Scripture that God thinks we need to know for obeying him, and trusting him fully. We believe in the authority of the Scripture in that to disbelieve or disobey any word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God. We believe the canon of Scripture today is exactly what God wanted it to be, and it will stay that way until Christ returns (Hebrews 1:1-2, Rev 22).

