

Introduction to the Disciples' Toolkit

Six Weeks of Equipping the Believer

The *Winter Mini-Study: Back to Basics* is designed to strengthen the core habits that every disciple needs in order to grow, mature, and serve faithfully. Whether you are new to the faith or seeking a fresh reset in your walk with Christ, this six-week journey provides simple, practical tools you can use every day.

Each session highlights a key spiritual discipline or essential area of church life—fasting, prayer, understanding the church, and studying the Bible. These tools form your **Disciples' Toolkit**: resources that help you build consistency, deepen your relationship with God, and participate fully in the life of New Providence Missionary Baptist Church.

Together, we will learn how to focus our hearts through fasting, pray with greater confidence by using God's attributes in Psalm 103, understand the foundations of church identity and structure, and become students of Scripture through the 3-Question Method of Bible study (Read – Reflect – Respond).

This series is simple by design—but strengthening by intention. As we revisit these basics, our prayer is that every believer is equipped, encouraged, and empowered to live out their faith with clarity, confidence, and joy.

Gathering our Tools – Equipping the Believer

A foundational series to strengthen our spiritual disciplines and understanding of church life.

- Jan 7 – Fasting led by Natalie Wood Riche
- Jan 14 – Prayer Tool: Praying the Attributes of God in Psalm 103 led by Tammy Chapman
- Jan 21 – Prayer Tool: Praying the Attributes of God in Psalm 103 led by Tammy Chapman
- Jan 28 – Church 101 led by Pastor Nathaniel Wood
- Feb 4 – Bible Study Tool: The 3-Question Method (Inductive Bible Study Tool Read-Reflect-Respond)
- Feb 11 – Bible Study Tool: The 3-Question Method (Inductive Bible Study Tool Read-Reflect-Respond)
- ***Feb 18 & Feb 25 – NO SESSIONS (Break)***

Sessions Outline

Week 1 — January 7

Fasting: Turning Down the Plate to Turn Up the Spirit

Session Purpose: Introduce the discipline of fasting as a means of spiritual clarity, dependence, and transformation.

Key Scriptures: Matthew 6:16–18; Isaiah 58

In This Session You Will Learn:

- What fasting is and what it is not
- Types of fasts (biblical & practical)
- How to prepare spiritually before beginning a fast
- How to incorporate prayer and Scripture during your fast

Weeks 2-3— January 14 & 21

Prayer Tool: Praying the Attributes of God in Psalm 103 (Part 1 & 2)

Session Purpose: Learn a simple, powerful method of prayer rooted in God’s revealed character.

Key Scripture: Psalm 103:1–15

In This Session You Will Learn:

- How God’s attributes fuel confident prayer
- How to pray Scripture back to God
- How to move from head knowledge to heart transformation
- How to shape petitions, thanksgiving, and worship using Psalm 103

Week 4 — January 28

Church 101: Understanding the Family You Belong To

Session Purpose: Build foundational understanding of what the church is, why it matters, and how each believer fits into the mission.

In This Session You Will Learn:

- What makes the church unique
- NPBC’s mission, structure, and ministries

- What it means to be a growing disciple in community
- How every believer contributes to the work of the church

Reflection:

- What part of NPBC's mission or structure was most meaningful or new to you?
- Where do you sense the Lord inviting you to grow or serve?

Week 5 & 6 — February 4 & 11

Bible Study Tool: The 3-Question Method (Read – Reflect – Respond)

Inductive Bible Study Tool

Session Purpose: Equip every believer with a simple method to study Scripture with understanding and application.

What You Will Learn:

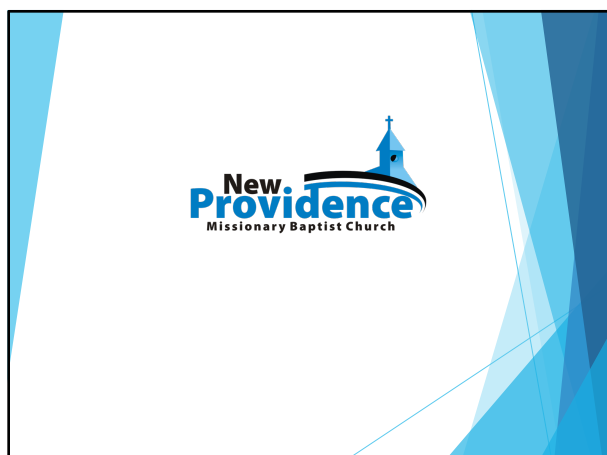
1. **Read — What does the passage say? (Facts & observations)**
2. **Reflect — What does it mean? (Head → Heart)**
3. **Respond — How will I live this out? (Application)**

A Prayer for Each Participant

From Pastor Nathaniel J. Wood and the Christian Education Ministry

Heavenly Father, we pray Your blessing over every participant in this study. As they walk through these weeks, may each tool strengthen their faith and deepen their daily walk with You. Help them grow in their understanding of biblical fasting, teach them to pray with confidence as they meditate on Your attributes in Psalm 103, and give them clarity as they learn more about the life and mission of Your church. Lord, equip them to study Your Word with the simple rhythm of Read, Reflect, and Respond so they may apply Scripture with joy and live as committed disciples. May this toolkit produce lasting spiritual growth, renewed devotion, and a stronger connection to You and to our church family. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Session One: Fasting
January 7, 2026



1

Definition of Fasting

- ▶ A Christian's **VOLUNTARY** abstinence from something for **spiritual** purposes.
 - ▶ Food
- ▶ Fasting can also be the **VOLUNTARY** denial of a **normal desire** for the sake of intense **spiritual** activity.
- ▶ Sacrifice is to give up something good for God's "better"
 - ▶ Other things or activities: social media, Watching TV, Spotify
 - ▶ Goal to re-enter positive things at end of fast to break the fast
- ▶ Fasting may be the first step in deliverance
 - ▶ What do you need to give up?
 - ▶ Alcohol, fornication, gambling, unnecessary spending,

2

Kinds of Fasts

- ▶ Normal
- ▶ Partial
- ▶ Absolute

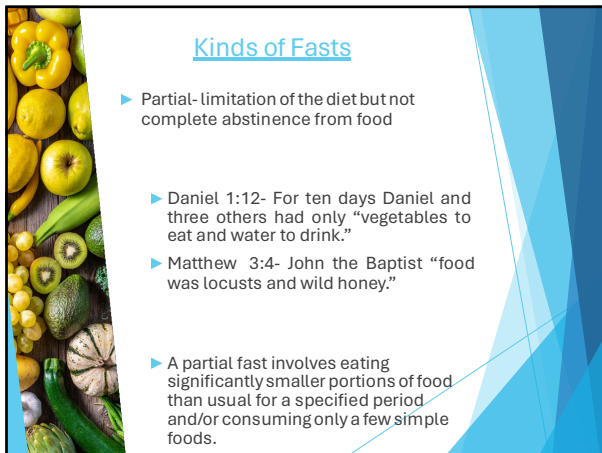
3




Kinds of Fasts

- ▶ Normal- abstaining from all food but not water.
- ▶ Matthew 4:2- "After fasting forty days and forty nights, he [Jesus] was hungry."
- ▶ Luke 4:2- He "ate nothing during those days."
- ▶ *To abstain from food but to drink water is the most common kind of biblical fast.*

4

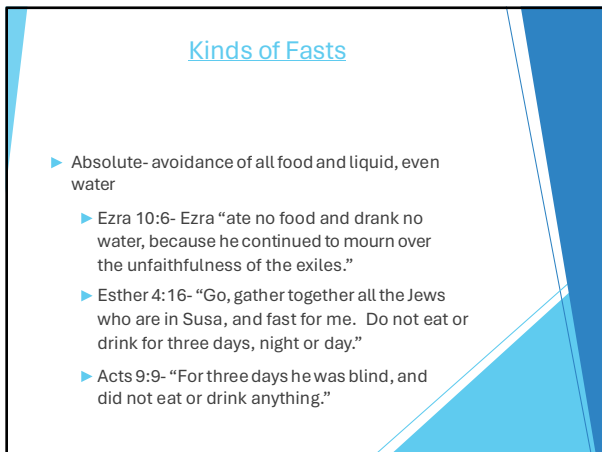




Kinds of Fasts

- ▶ Partial- limitation of the diet but not complete abstinence from food
- ▶ Daniel 1:12- For ten days Daniel and three others had only "vegetables to eat and water to drink."
- ▶ Matthew 3:4- John the Baptist "food was locusts and wild honey."
- ▶ A partial fast involves eating significantly smaller portions of food than usual for a specified period and/or consuming only a few simple foods.

5



Kinds of Fasts

- ▶ Absolute- avoidance of all food and liquid, even water
- ▶ Ezra 10:6- Ezra "ate no food and drank no water, because he continued to mourn over the unfaithfulness of the exiles."
- ▶ Esther 4:16- "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day."
- ▶ Acts 9:9- "For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything."

6

Fasting is expected (not required)

Matthew 6:2-7, 16-17

"And **when** you fast... (not if...)"

Compare to:

- ▶ Jesus' statements on **giving** (Matthew 6:2-3)
- ▶ Jesus' statements on **praying** (Matthew 6:5-7)
 - ✓ No biblical indication to stop giving, praying or fasting

7

Jesus' Instructions on Fasting

- ▶ Matthew 6:16-18
 - ▶ "When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full."
 - Don't look like you are fasting
 - Don't look miserable.
 - Don't look like you are suffering.
 - Don't neglect your appearance.

8

Why Fast?

For Spiritual Discipline

- Godly people are a disciplined people
- a holy people-set apart to God

To Strengthen Prayer

- Sharpens the edge of our intercession



9

Spiritual Purposes of Fasting

- ▶ **To Seek God's Guidance**
 - ▶ (to discern the will of God clearly)
 - ▶ Acts 14:23
- ▶ Fasting does not ensure the **certainty** of receiving clear guidance from God.
- ▶ But it does make us **more receptive** to the One who loves to guide us.

10

Spiritual Purposes of Fasting

- ▶ **To Express Grief**
 - ▶ 1 Samuel 31:13- Men of Jabesh Gilead fasted seven days after the death of King Saul and his sons at the hands of the Philistines.

11

Spiritual Purposes of Fasting

- ▶ **To Seek Deliverance or Protection**
 - ▶ 2 Chronicles 20:3-4 - King Jehoshaphat, when informed that a large army was approaching, was afraid and "resolved to inquire of the Lord, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah."

fasting to seek God's protection on their journey.
 - ▶ Esther 4:16 - Queen Esther called for a fast among all Jews as she prepared to go to King Xerxes uninvited to appeal to him for the protection of the Jews from mass extermination.

12

Spiritual Purposes of Fasting

- ▶ **To Express Repentance and the Return to God**
 - ▶ Joel 2:12 – “Even now, return to Me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.”
 - ▶ Jonah 3:5-8- “The Ninevites believed God. They declared a fast...Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence.”

To Express Repentance and Return to God (a commitment to obedience and a new direction)

Fasting without repentance is in vain. Fasting

without repentance is in vain.

13

Spiritual Purposes of Fasting

- ▶ **To Humble Oneself Before God**
 - ▶ Judges 20:26– Israelites fasted to express their grief for the forty thousand brothers they had lost in battle.
 - ▶ They sought the Lord and failed two times.
 - ▶ But they began to repent, seek God, and fast.
- ▶ Fasting itself is not humility but should be an expression of humility.
- ▶ Luke 18:12- Pharisee bragged to God that he fasted twice a week.

14

Spiritual Purposes of Fasting

- ▶ **To Express Concern for the Work of God**
 - ▶ Nehemiah 1: 3-4 – Despite the return of many Jewish exiles to Jerusalem, the city still had no wall to defend it. “They said to me, ‘Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace’...When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.

15

Spiritual Purpose of Fasting

- ▶ **What kind of fasting does God require?**
- ▶ **Isaiah 58:6-7**
 - ▶ The people complained to God
 - ▶ Disobedience was the reason he had not heard them.
- ▶ God will not bless fasting (or any spiritual discipline) if we reject his Word regarding our relationships with others.

16

16

Spiritual Purpose of Fasting

- ▶ **To Overcome Temptation and Dedicate Yourself to God**
- ▶ Matthew 4: 1-11
- ▶ In times of exceptional temptation, exceptional measures are required.
 - ▶ Traveling, the effect of a new job on family, disappointment, despair, etc.



17

Spiritual Purpose of Fasting

- ▶ **To Express Love and Worship to God**
- ▶ Luke 2: 36-38- Godly woman devoted over half of a century, night and day, to a worship of God characterized by “fasting and prayer”.
- ▶ Disciplining yourself to fast means that you love God more than food, and that seeking him is more important than eating. It means your stomach is not your God as it is with some.

18

18

What if you falter?

- ▶ **Confess and repent**
- ▶ **Donnie McClurkin... Get back up again!**


- ▶ We mess up in all areas of life, but we don't stop shopping or recreation or eating;
- ▶ Don't quit on God.

PREPARE FOR THE FAST!

19

NPBC Season of Consecration: Prayer and Fasting

- ▶ **Congregational**
 - ▶ Joel 2:15-16- "Blow a trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly. Gather the people, consecrate the assembly."
 - ▶ Acts 13:2- Part of the congregation at Antioch were fasting- "While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting."



20

Preparing for a Season of Prayer and Fasting

- ▶ 1. Ask God how God wants you to fast and pray.
- ▶ 2. Know that fasting is a spiritual discipline of sacrifice.
- ▶ 3. Do not expect everyone to get what you are doing
- ▶ 4. Do not make fasting and prayer complicated.
- ▶ 5. Ask a small group of mature Christians to pray for your resolve and strength as you fast and pray.
- ▶ 6. Pray for the spiritual strength and a mature spiritual mentality during the season of prayer and fasting.

21

While You are Praying and Fasting

- ▶ 1. Stay in the Word of God.
- ▶ 2. Surround yourself with intercessors, encouragers and life-speakers.
- ▶ 3. Fast and pray with a partner or small group of like-minded Christians.
- ▶ 4. Expect spiritual attack, distraction and opposition.
- ▶ 5. Do not fast and pray to compete, impress others, force the hand of God or for any selfish reasons.
- ▶ 6. Be intentional about praying as you fast.
- ▶ 7. Take note (journal) about what God is doing in, with, through and around you.
- ▶ 8. If you make a mistake, ask for forgiveness and start again.
- ▶ 9. Keep focused on Almighty God.

22



Jesus' Promised Results

"And your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

23

Session Two and Three:
Studying and Praying the Attributes of God
January 14th and 21st, 2026

A — Adoration

Attributes of God

Psalm 103:1–15 (NIV) — Passage

(Write the Attributes, names, and actions of God revealed in this passage)

1 Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. V1

2 Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits— V2

3 who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, V3

4 who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, V4

5 who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. V5

6 The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed. V6

7 He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel: V7

8 The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. V8

9 He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; V9

10 he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. V10

11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; V11

12 as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. V12

13 As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; V13

A —Adoration-Ascribe to God His Worth

Goal: As you reflect on God as revealed **in the passage**, worship God through His attributes, names and actions.

Write your personal prayer of worship (hold back on thanksgiving. Keep the mirror up):

C — Confession-Agreement with God. Mirror in. Reflection.

Goal: As you reflect on God as revealed **in the passage**, honestly acknowledge sin, missteps, or attitudes that need God's cleansing.

Write your personal prayer of confession below:

T — Thanksgiving-Praise for what He has and IS doing. Be aware of His presence now. Mirror out.

Goal: As you reflect on God as revealed in the passage, express gratitude for who God is, what He has done in your life and continues or promises to do.

Consider blessings, answered prayers, protection, forgiveness, and God's provision.

Write your thanksgiving prayer below:

S — Supplication-Petition and surrender prayer requests based on His promises and power.

Goal: As you reflect on who God is as revealed in the passage, take a moment to bring your personal needs before the Lord, then intercede for someone else. Trust that God hears you, responds with wisdom, and delights in providing according to His will.

Prayer for Self:

Prayer for Others:

Session Four:
Church 101 for Everyone
January 28th, 2026

DISCOVERING CHURCH MEMBERSHIP^[SEP] CLASS 101 –

NEW MEMBERS BOOKLET^[SEP]

New Providence Missionary Baptist Church

Welcome to New Providence Missionary Baptist Church!

We're thankful that you've chosen to learn more about our church family. This booklet is a simple introduction to:

- What it means to be a Christian
- What it means to be a church member
- Who New Providence is
- How you can connect, grow, and serve

“You are a member of God’s very own family...and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian.”^[SEP]— Ephesians 2:19

Our prayer is that, as you read, you will sense God’s invitation to belong, to grow, and to serve in this local church family.

WHAT IS CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?

1. Why the Church Matters

- The church is **God’s family** – believers joined together in Christ.
- God expects believers to be **part of a local church family**, not just “on our own.”
- A Christian without a church family misses out on support, accountability, and shared mission.

Goal of CLASS 101:^[SEP] That I will commit myself to **Christ** and to **His church family at New Providence**.

2. What Makes New Providence a Family?

Four things unite us:

- 1 **Our Salvation** – What God has done for us in Christ
- 2 **Our Statements** – Why we exist and what we believe
- 3 **Our Strategy** – How we carry out our purpose
- 4 **Our Structure** – How our church is organized and led

SESSION ONE: OUR SALVATION: BECOMING A CHRISTIAN

What it means to follow Jesus, plus Baptism and the Lord's Supper. What God has done for us in Christ

“So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.”^[SEP]— Galatians 3:26

1. God's Purpose for Me

- God made me to **love me** and to have a **personal relationship** with Him.
- When we know and love God and live in harmony with His purpose, He gives:

Forgiveness and a clear conscience (Romans 8:1)

Life and peace (Romans 8:6)

Help in weakness (Romans 8:26)

Purpose and hope (Romans 8:28)

Notes:

2. Our Problem: Sin

- We naturally want to **do things our own way** and ignore God's principles and ways.
- The Bible calls this attitude **sin** (Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:23).
- Sin **breaks our fellowship with God** and affects every area of life.

3. God's Solution: Jesus Christ

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”^[SEP]— John 14:6

- God came to us in Jesus Christ to bring us back to Himself.
- Jesus lived a perfect life, died for our sins, and rose again.

4. My Response. What does God want me to do?

God invites you to:

- 1 **Admit** you have sinned and ask for forgiveness. (1 John 1:9)
- 2 **Believe** that Jesus died and rose again for you. (Romans 10:9)
- 3 **Receive** God's free gift of salvation—don't try to earn it. (Ephesians 2:8–9)
- 4 **Invite** Jesus to be Lord of your life. (John 1:12; Revelation 3:20)

Short prayer you can use: ^[L]^[SEP]“Lord Jesus, I admit I have sinned. I believe You died and rose again for me. I receive Your gift of salvation. Please come into my life and be my Lord and Savior. Amen.”

BAPTISM & THE LORD’S SUPPER

A. Baptism

1. Why be baptized?

- To follow the example of **Jesus** (Mark 1:9)
- Because Jesus **commanded it** (Matthew 28:19–20)
- To show publicly that you are a **follower of Christ** (Acts 18:8)

2. What does baptism mean?

- It pictures **Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection** (1 Corinthians 15:3–4).
- It pictures your **new life in Christ** (Romans 6:4).

Baptism does **not** save you; faith in Jesus does. Baptism is an **outward symbol** of an inward commitment—like a wedding ring.

3. Why immersion?

- Jesus was baptized by going down into and coming up out of the water (Matthew 3:16).
- New Testament baptisms were by immersion (Acts 8:38–39).
- The word “baptize” means “to dip or immerse.”

4. Who should be baptized?

- Everyone who has **trusted in Christ** as Lord and Savior (Acts 8:35–38).

Notes:

B. The Lord’s Supper

“Do this in remembrance of me.” ^[L]^[SEP]— 1 Corinthians 11:24–25

The Lord’s Supper (Communion) is:

- A **reminder** of Jesus' body and blood given for us
- A **celebration** of His sacrifice and our salvation
- A **proclamation** of His death until He comes again

Who should take it?

- Those who have placed their **faith in Christ**.

How should I prepare? (1 Corinthians 11:27–28)

- **Examine** my heart
- **Confess** my sins
- **Recommit** myself to God
- **Restore** relationships where needed

We observe the Lord's Supper regularly as a church family to remember Jesus together.

Notes:

SESSION TWO: OUR STATEMENTS

“Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” (1 Cor. 1:10)

WHY WE EXIST & WHAT WE BELIEVE (SUMMARY)

A. Our Biblical Foundations

Jesus gave us:

1. The Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37–40)

- Love God with all your heart.
- Love your neighbor as yourself.

2. The Great Commission (Matthew 28:19–20)

- Go and make disciples.
- Baptize them.
- Teach them to obey all Jesus commanded.

B. Our Five Purposes

New Providence exists to:

- 1 **Worship** – Celebrate God’s presence
- 2 **Ministry** – Show God’s love through caring and service
- 3 **Evangelism** – Share God’s Word and the gospel
- 4 **Fellowship** – Build God’s family and relationships
- 5 **Discipleship** – Grow God’s people into spiritual maturity

1. Our Vision:

New Providence Missionary Baptist Church seeks to be:

- A **growing community of believers**
- With a **strong relationship with God and each other**
- Modeling the **life and teachings of Jesus Christ**

“Where there is no vision, the people perish.” (Proverbs 29:18a)

Notes:

2. Our Core Beliefs

We believe:

- The **Bible** is God's inspired Word and our final authority.
- There is **one true God**, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- Humans are created in God's image but fallen into sin.
- Salvation is by **grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone**.
- The Holy Spirit gives new life and power for holy living.
- The Church is a body of baptized believers who follow Christ together.
- **Baptism** and the **Lord's Supper** are ordinances for believers.
- Jesus will **return**, and believers will be with Him forever.

SESSION THREE: OUR STORY & OUR STRATEGY

Our church story, who we are trying to reach, and how we help people grow

A. Our Story

- Founded around **1860** by formerly enslaved believers seeking a place of worship.
- Early worship took place under a **brush arbor** on donated land.
- Over the years, God has blessed New Providence with **growth in members, buildings, and ministries**.
- From about **29 members** to over **350**, with many ministries serving Christ and the community.

We give God all the glory for our history and our future.

Notes:

B. Who We Are Trying to Reach

“...Yes, whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him.” 1 Corinthians 9:22

- Every church has a **group of people** it is especially positioned to reach.
- We seek to reach:
 - Individuals and families in our community
 - People of all ages who need the hope of Christ
 - Those who may not have grown up in church

We lay aside **man-made traditions** (not biblical truth) if needed to reach people with the gospel.

Notes:

C. Our Strategy

These ideas shape our ministry:

- **Need-sensitive**
- **Every member is a minister**
- **Winning the lost**
- **Prayer-based**
- **Respect for families**
- **Offer reconciliation**
- **Vision oriented**
- **Increase knowledge of God**
- **Driven by purpose**
- **Encourage relationships**
- **Nurture the weak**
- **Climate of acceptance**
- **Exciting worship and praise**

Notes

OUR STRUCTURE & AFFILIATIONS

How New Providence is organized, our affiliations, and what membership means.

A. How Our Church Is Structured

“For God is not a God of disorder but of peace... But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.”^[1] — 1 Corinthians 14:33, 40

The Bible describes the church as:

- A **fellowship** – we value unity and peace.
- A **family** – we care for one another.
- A **body** – each person has a part to play.
- A **flock** – we are led and cared for by shepherds (pastor(s)).

At New Providence:

- **Jesus Christ** is the head of the church.
- The **congregation** (members) share in major decisions.
- The **Pastor** and **Deacons** provide spiritual leadership and care.
- **Church staff and officers** (treasurer, clerk, trustees, ministry leaders) help with ministry and administration.

Church Government:^[1] New Providence is **congregational** in nature. Members vote on major matters at church conferences.

Notes:

B. Our Affiliations

New Providence is part of:

- **Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. (PNBC)**
- **General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.**
- **Wake Baptist Association**

These partnerships help us support **missions, education, and ministry** beyond our local congregation.

Space for questions:

SESSION FOUR: BECOMING A MEMBER & MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

“For God is not a God of disorder, but of peace... Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.” (1 Cor. 14:33-40)

The structure of the church should not be determined by culture, business practices, or even denominational traditions. The nature of the church determines its structure

A. What It Means to Be a Member

The difference between an **attender** and a **member** is one word: **Commitment**.

We invite you to commit to membership because:

- 1 **Biblical** – Christ is committed to the church.
- 2 **Cultural** – Commitment stands out in a casual culture.
- 3 **Practical** – Membership helps define who can serve in certain roles.
- 4 **Personal** – Commitment helps you grow spiritually.

Notes:

B. Membership Covenant

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior, been baptized, and agreeing with New Providence’s basic beliefs and mission, I feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the New Providence church family. I commit to:

1. Protect the Unity of My Church

- Acting in love toward other members
- Refusing to gossip and resolving conflict (Matthew 18:15–17)
- Supporting the spiritual leadership of the church

2. Share the Responsibility of My Church

- Praying for the church and its growth
- Inviting the unchurched to attend
- Warmly welcoming those who visit

Space for questions:

3. Serve in the Ministry of My Church

- Discovering and using my spiritual gifts and talents
- Being equipped to serve by my pastor(s)
- Developing a servant's heart

4. Support the Testimony of My Church

- Attending faithfully
- Living a growing, godly life
- Giving regularly as God provides

Notes:

Next Steps

- Talk with a **pastor or deacon** about membership.
- Share your **testimony of faith in Christ**.
- Complete the **membership process** (including baptism if needed).

Your commitment:

Name: _____ Date: _____

Questions or prayer requests:

Session Five and Six:
Bible Study Tool: Three Question Method
February 4th and 11th

Bible Study Tool: The 3-Question Method

Studying the Bible is essential for every believer because God uses His Word to **reveal who He is, shape our character, and guide our daily decisions**. Scripture strengthens our faith, renews our minds, and anchors us in God's truth when life feels uncertain. When we study intentionally, we learn to hear God's voice more clearly, grow spiritually, and walk confidently in the calling He has given us.

1. Why We Start With Facts: “What Is the Passage About?”

Before we can understand what God is saying to us, we must first understand **what the text actually says**. Beginning with facts protects us from assumptions, opinions, and reading our own ideas into Scripture. It grounds us in the **truth of the passage**, not our impressions of it.

By observing details—who is speaking, what is happening, when and where events occur—we build a solid foundation for correct interpretation. Clear observation helps us slow down, notice what matters, and see the passage as God intended it to be understood.

Grounded facts → Accurate understanding → Meaningful insight

2. Why We Ask: “What Do I Learn?”

Once the facts are clear, we begin to reflect on what the passage **teaches**. This is where we move from simply noticing what happened to discovering **why it matters**.

Here, we explore:

- What the passage reveals about **God's character or human nature**
- The **truths, promises, warnings, or principles** embedded in the text

This step bridges the gap between **head knowledge and heart transformation**. It is the place where God's truth begins to speak to our identity, our struggles, our beliefs, and our worship.

Observation (head) → Reflection (heart)

This is spiritual formation at work: the Word shaping how we think, feel, and see God.

3. Why We Ask: “How Will I Apply It?”

Scripture is not only meant to be studied—it's meant to be **lived**. Application is where God's Word moves from information to transformation.

This step asks:

- What needs to change in my thinking or behavior?
- How should I respond, obey, or pray based on what I've learned?

This question invites us into growth, obedience, and action. Application is not about perfection—it is about taking a **faithful next step**. It helps us align our lives with God's truth so we can live out what we now know and believe.

Heart transformation → Life transformation → Faith in action

The 3-Question Method is a simple tool that makes Bible study accessible for anyone. Whether you are reading alone or leading a group, these questions help you *observe the text, interpret its meaning, and apply it to life*.

3 Question Method: Tool for Personal Study of a Passage (Personal Use)

1. What is the Passage About?

- Note key details of the content
(who, what, when, where, etc)
- Write the main facts of the passage
- Summarize the passage in one sentence

2. What do I learn?

- What does the passage reveal about God?
- What does the passage reveal about people?
- Is there a promise/command/warning?
- What is the main truth in the passage?
- What principles or lessons do I see?
- Is there something for which I should pray?
- Write 1-2 conclusions to specify what you learned

3. How will I apply it?

- Is there a similar situation in my life that this passage addresses?
- What change in my thinking or behavior is needed to align with the truths in this passage?
- How should I respond based on what I learned?

3 Question Method: Tool for Leading through a Passage (For Leading)

1. What is the Passage About?

- Tell me what the main characters are doing in this passage.
- Which points (conversations, actions) seem most important to notice?
- Where is this story taking place and what is the significance of that?
- How would you summarize this passage in one sentence?

2. What do You Learn?

- What does this passage reveal about God?
- What does the passage reveal about people?
- Tell me what promises, warnings, or commands you see.
- Tell me about a key truth you see in these verses.
- What new/encouraging/challenging points stand out to you?

3. How Will You Apply it?

- How does this relate to your life right now?
- How do you think we should respond to what we learned?
- What do you think we should pray for based on this passage?
- Does our thinking and behavior line up with what the passage teaches?
- Tell me about a change you would like to implement in your life based on these verses?

Notes: