

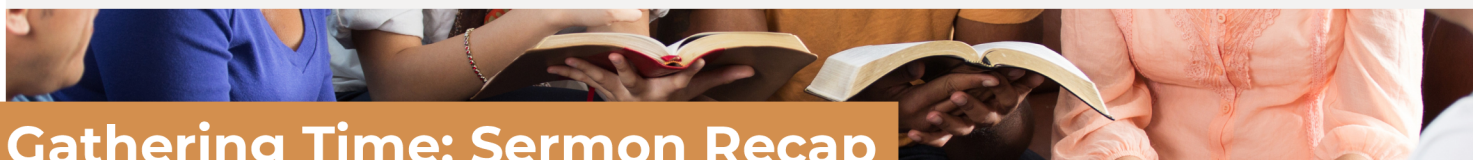
How to Use This Guide:

- **Read the Sermon Recap** by yourself (for devotions) or with your group. You can also watch the sermon on YouTube @CBCFamily.
- **Read the passage/s.** Look for truths, promises, and/or commands. Try to find the “who, what, when, where, why, and how.”
- **Group Time:** First, take turns reading the Scripture passage/s from the sermon, round-robin style, letting each person read one verse. Go around the circle until the whole passage has been read. Then, **utilize the Group Time** portion of this 4G Guide.

What's a 4G? A guide that covers:

1. Gathering Time (Sunday morning)
2. Group Time (for group meetings)
3. God Times (personal and family devotions)
4. Give Time (a prompt for reflection)

- **Personal God Time:** Use these each day to dive into the passages further and challenge yourself to apply the texts.
- **Family God Time:** Use these each week to dive into the passages with your family.
- **Give Time:** Ask your group, yourself, or your family what might be a good response to the sermon or text? How are you inspired to give of your time, talent, or treasure?



Gathering Time: Sermon Recap

What Is a Baptist?

Jim Jordan went over the final two Baptist distinctives: the two ordinances and church membership. He looked at **Gal 3:27; Rom 6:4-5 and 8; 1 Cor 12:13; Eph 4:5; Lk 22:14-20; 1 Cor 11:24-26; 1 Cor 10:16-17; Mt 26:29; 1 Cor 2:12-13.**

As a reminder, the distinctives are: Biblical authority, autonomy of the local church, priesthood of Believers, two offices, individual soul liberty, separation of church and state, two ordinances (baptism and communion), and saved and baptized church membership.

Believer's baptism by immersion and Communion (also called the Lord's Supper) are commanded by Christ and so we obey Him. Baptists don't believe that these ordinances offer any special, supernatural blessings other than the blessing of obedience to the Lord's directives. They do not earn salvation, but they are a response to salvation.

Baptism marks the outward, public witness of salvation, the initiation and bond into the Body

of Christ that was sealed upon saving faith. Baptism signifies the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and a Believer's death and burial to his/her old life and raising to walk in new, spiritual life.

Communion is for saved, baptized Believers, and it is a symbol of fellowship with Christ. It also outwardly expresses inward faith. It is an expression of faith that Believers repeat, obeying Jesus' command, remembering His sacrifice for sin, until He comes again.

Baptists also believe in church membership. When a saved and baptized Believer joins a local Baptist church, they show others that they are a united part of God's people. They covenant with other Believers under church leadership in a promise of mutual fellowship, care, accountability, submission to one another, and responsibility.

The church witnesses to a watching world. Do they see us obey Christ and love one another?

Group Time: Questions

Conversation Starter

Ask: How important is it to obey God's teaching?
Do we have to understand all the details first?

Discussion Questions

Choose a track, mix and match, or do them all.

- **Track 1:** After hearing the Sermon Recap and reading the verses, how would you sum up the two distinctives Jim talked about?
- What are the blessings and benefits of these? Why do you think God provided them for us?
- What biblical support would you cite to uphold the Baptist view on both these distinctives?

- **Track 2:** What two ordinances are we supposed to obey/observe?
- What is the spiritual significance of the ordinances? What do they show us and other Believers? What do they show the world?
- Do you have a testimony about baptism or taking communion that you'd like to share?

- **Track 3:** What reasons did Jim give for church membership?
- How can Believers who are committed to one another be a witness to the world?
- What blessings of church membership have you experienced?



God Time: Personal

Use the sermon notes from our Gathering Time this week for your personal time with God. Use a spare notebook or your favorite device to journal your responses. Include prayer and application in your time with God!

- **Monday:** Read Gal 3:27, Rom 6:4-5 and 6:8. What does baptism signify?
- **Tuesday:** Read 1 Cor 12:13; Eph 4:5; and Note every occurrence of the word "one" and how it points to unity.
- **Wednesday:** Read Lk 22:14-20. What stands out to you? Journal about it.
- **Thursday:** Read 1 Cor 11:24-29 and 1 Cor 10:16-17. What do you see about Communion that points back to what Christ did for us? What points forward? How reverent should we be when partaking of Communion?
- **Friday:** Read Rom 12:10-16, Heb 10:25, and 1 Cor 12:21-26. God wants Believers to gather as covenanted members for church. Why? What does this show the world?



God Time: Family

Parents: Familiarize yourself with sermon recap from our Gathering Time. Sum it up in a way your child can understand.

- Consider **reading** about the Last Supper in a children's Bible. Then read John 14:15.
- Give a **summary** statement like: "At our church, we believe things based on what the Bible teaches. The Bible teaches that people who commit to following Jesus should be baptized when they give their life to Him and then regularly take the Lord's Supper together. The Bible also teaches us to join together with other Believers so that we can worship together and care for each other."
- **Ask:** Why does Jesus want us to obey?
- **Say:** Obedience shows love and honor.
- **Activity:** Play the Obedience Game. Choose a leader to give directions to the family. (E.g., jog in place, find a ball, point to something red, etc.) Talk about how obedience is important and shows honor.

Give: *How does this week's sermon inspire you to give of your time, talent, or treasure?*