

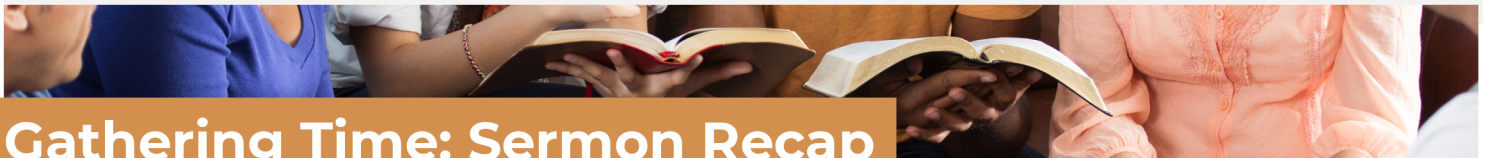
How to Use This Guide:

- **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 Times:** 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 Times (Sunday morning)
2. Group Times (for group meetings)
3. God Times (personal and family devotions)
4. Give Time Prompt (A prompt for reflection)

- **Personal God Times:** Use these each day to dive into the passages further and challenge yourself to apply the texts.
- **Family God Times:** 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?

This week, Bishop Helsley explored what it means to be a Baptist. He expounded on some Baptist beliefs and looked at **1 Thess 2:13, Rom 13:1, Titus 3:1-3, Col 1:18-20, 2 Cor 8:1-5.**

So, what exactly is a Baptist? Bishop mentioned that a Baptist person or church is one who holds to certain Baptist distinctives. Just what are they? Biblical authority, autonomy of the local church, priesthood of Believers, the two ordinances of baptism and communion, individual soul liberty, saved and baptized church membership, the two offices of pastor and deacon, and separation of church and state. In this message, Bishop examined the first two distinctives in detail.

Baptists believe that the entire Bible is the divinely inspired Word of God. As such, it is both inerrant and authoritative (see 2 Tim 3:16-17), containing only God's words (2 Pe 1:21). It reveals Christ (1 Th 2:13, Luke 24:44-46) and God's plan of redemption to mankind, and so it is sufficient for salvation and a life of godliness.

The Word of God is (and has always been) true in all that it affirms and is entirely trustworthy (John 17:17). Baptists believe that the Word of God has been protected by the Spirit through the ages and is reliable even today. God's Word is God's Word.

Yet, God's Word is not the only authority in our lives. Rom 13:1 and Titus 3:1-3 remind us to be subject to authorities in and out of church. These authorities are not inerrant, however.

Baptists also believe in the autonomy of the local church. Col 1:18-20 teaches that *Christ* is the head of the church. Any outside authority is not. Yet, we do not worship in isolation; together, we comprise Christ's body. So, we are generous with one another. (2 Cor 8:3)

As Baptists, we must ask ourselves: do I understand, submit to, and uphold the authority of God's Word? Am I truly open to what the Bible teaches? Do I put faith in Christ or someone or something else?

Group Time: Questions

Conversation Starter

Ask: How do beliefs shape actions? Have you ever seen someone attempt something crazy because they believed it would work? What happened?

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 beliefs Bishop talked about?
- There are Christians who don't hold the Bible in such high regard. How is this dangerous?
- Without judging Christians who don't believe in local church autonomy, what biblical support would you cite to uphold the Baptist view?

- **Track 2:** Read 2 Tim 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:21, and John 17:17. How do these verses add to the discussion of the inerrancy and authority of God's Word?
- Inerrancy is a big topic. Generally, we say that the Bible is inerrant in its original form, but entirely trustworthy even in translations. Why? How careful are translators? How do we know things stay the same?
- **Track 3:** Why do you think some of these topics Bishop mentioned are "Baptist" distinctives? Without judging other Christians, what are the reasons we take these things so seriously?
- If we take these topics seriously, should we shy away from these distinctives? How should/can your beliefs about these show in your actions?



God Times: 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 1 Thess 2:13 and Luke 24:44-46. What stands out to you? Mark your Bible or journal about it.
- **Tuesday:** Read Col 1:18-20. What stands out to you? Mark your Bible or journal about it.
- **Wednesday:** Read 2 Tim 3:16-17. What stands out to you? Mark your Bible or journal about it. Do you have beliefs about God's Word to correct? Pray about it.
- **Thursday:** Read Col 1:15-20. This passage is about Jesus. Make a list about what it says about Him. Praise Him for who He is!
- **Friday:** Read 2 Cor 8:1-5. Why is generosity important, even among autonomous churches? What is God asking you to give or share? When will you do it?



God Times: Family

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

- Consider **reading** about Daniel in the Lions Den and how he trusted God.
- Give a **summary** statement like: "It is important to know what we believe and why we believe it. At our church, we believe things about God, the Bible, or the way we worship together based on what the Bible teaches. The Bible is God's Word, and since God is perfect, His Word is perfect and true. We can trust God! He is also the head of the church, so we believe and trust the things He teaches us about church in the Bible."
- **Ask:** Does God want us to trust Him?
- **Say:** We can trust God!
- **Activity:** Do a trust fall. One person stands in front of the other and leans back until they fall in the arms of the person behind them. Talk about how God can be trusted.

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

Demonstrate. Declare. Disciple.

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