

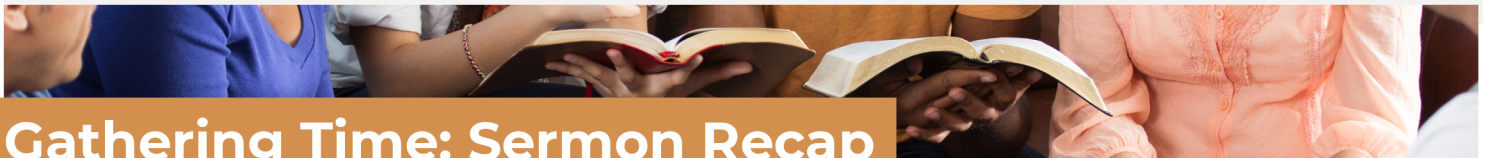
## How to Use This Guide:

- **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?

Erin Feldges picked up where Greg Hoffman left off, going over two additional Baptist distinctives. He looked at **Acts 6:1-7; 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and 3:2-7; Titus 1:6-9; Matthew 27:51; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Peter 2:5 and 9.**

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

The word “church” has multiple meanings. It is all Believers, everywhere, for all time, but it also can be used to describe a building and leadership. The “local church” is Believers who gather together (sometimes in a church building) to worship together. The Bible tells us that a local church has two offices: deacons and pastors/elders/overseers.

A deacon assists, or serves, the church and the pastors/elders/overseers shepherd, guard, and lead and discipline with spiritual authority.

Both of these offices are needed to support the church as she exalts and shares Christ. Church members have the responsibility to be careful when choosing whom will fulfill these roles. While not everyone will be called to for these positions, everyone can strive to attain the godly character that these roles require.

The priesthood of the Believer is similar to individual soul liberty. While soul liberty focuses on the fact that others don't control our faith, priesthood means that all Believers have equal access directly to God, anytime. We approach God through faith in Christ, and His Spirit dwells within us. We then have the privilege and duty of sharing this knowledge and experience with others!

Do you have a godly character? Do you regularly meet with God and share your faith?

## Group Time: Questions

### Conversation Starter

Ask: Have you ever had a conversation using an interpreter? How did it feel to have to go through someone else just to communicate?

### 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 Erin 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 are the qualifications for deacons and pastor/elders/overseers? What types of things do they do?
- Why does God give leaders for the church? What does this say about Him?
- Leader or not, God calls us to be holy. Has a holy person influenced your life? Who? How?

- **Track 3:** Jesus is our High Priest; He shares His priestly status with us. What does it say about God that we can have direct access to Him?
- How is the concept of the priesthood of Believers demonstrated in someone's faith?
- Do you meet with God? Share Him with others?



### 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 1 Tim 3:8-13. What stands out to you? Mark your Bible or journal about it.
- **Tuesday:** Read Acts 6:1-7. What stands out to you? Mark your Bible or journal about it.
- **Wednesday:** Read 1 Tim 3:2-7. What are the qualifications for overseers? If you are not an "overseer" what godly attributes can you apply to your life?
- **Thursday:** Read Titus 1:6-9. Here are more qualifications. What do you see? Why are these things important to God and to the direction of His church?
- **Friday:** Read 1 Tim 2:5-6 and 1 Cor 6:19-20. We have a mediator. Who? As a result, who lives within us? What then should we do as a result? Ask God to help you glorify Him.



### 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 Jesus' death and resurrection in a children's Bible.
- Give a **summary** statement like: "At our church, we believe things based on what the Bible teaches. The Bible teaches that the church has leaders that help bless people. It also teaches that Jesus' followers can meet with God anytime! We also get to share about Him with others!"
- **Ask:** What are some ways we can meet with God?
- **Say:** When we believe in Jesus and His death and resurrection, we can meet with God anytime we want. To talk to God, we can pray! We can also read the Bible to learn what He is saying to us.
- **Activity:** Make a list of things your family wants to talk to God about. Now pray. Keep a journal and look for His answers.

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

**Demonstrate. Declare. Disciple.**

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