


NEXT STEP²

DEVELOP YOUR FAITH



NEXT STEP
HANDBOOK





SUNDAYS ARE JUST THE BEGINNING!

Whether you just started coming to Cedar Valley or you've been around a while, NEXT STEP is where you'll start to find your place in our church family. Meet other people and learn about ways to engage in our church community.

WELCOME TO NEXT STEP | STEP 2

FOUR BASIC NEXT STEP CLASSES OFFER AN INTRODUCTION TO CEDAR VALLEY:

STEP 1 Discover Cedar Valley

Unpack what Cedar Valley is all about. Hear our lead pastor's story, and learn about the rest of Cedar Valley's pastoral staff.
1st Sunday* | 10:30–11:45 a.m. | Rm 21

STEP 2 Develop Your Faith

Discover what it means to have a relationship with Jesus, grow in your faith, and be led by the Holy Spirit.
2nd Sunday* | 10:30–11:45 a.m. | Rm 21

STEP 3 Deploy Your Gifts

God can use you to make a real difference in someone's life! Recognize how He's wired you and find out which areas of ministry are a natural fit for you.
3rd Sunday* | 10:30–11:45 a.m. | Rm 21

STEP 4 Declare Your Devotion

Explore membership at Cedar Valley and find out how to use your faith story to help others.
4th Sunday* | 10:30–11:45 a.m. | Rm 21

All four steps are required for membership. It's recommended that you attend them in order, but they can be attended at any time.

*There are no classes on the even months. Classes are only offered January, March, May, July, September, and November.

STEP 2 DEVELOP YOUR FAITH

WHAT IS FAITH

Faith is **Trusting in Jesus Christ** _____ **for eternal life!**

... Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved ... —Acts 16:31

How do you become a Christian?

1. _____

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. —Romans 3:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. —Romans 6:23

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. —Romans 5:8

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all righteousness. —1 John 1:9

2. _____

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved ... —Romans 10:9–10

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name [Jesus] under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved. —Acts 4:12

For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. —1 Thessalonians 4:14

3. _____

For there is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity— the man Christ Jesus. He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone. —1 Timothy 2:5–6 (NLT)

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God —not by works, so that no one can boast. —Ephesians 2:8–9

4. _____

But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God ... —John 1:12–13

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Prayer: "Dear Jesus, thank You for creating me and for loving me even when I've ignored You and gone my own way. I realize I need You in my life, and I'm sorry for my sins. I ask You to forgive me. Thank You for dying on the cross for me. As much as I know how, I want to follow You from now on. Please come into my life and make me a new person inside. I accept Your free gift of salvation. Help me to grow now as a Christian."

For, Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. —Romans 10:13 (NLT)

"How do I grow in this new faith? How do I learn to trust Jesus with my life choosing to live for Him every day?"

Thankfully, God made a way for us to learn and grow with the help of His

_____ .

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Holy Spirit is _____, just as the Father is God and Jesus is God. There are many things the Holy Spirit does, but there are a few specific ways the Holy Spirit works in our lives.

1. The Holy Spirit _____ us to God.

... Our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction ... — 1 Thessalonians 1:5

... God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. —2 Thessalonians 2:13

2. The Holy Spirit _____ (enters a person) at salvation.

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." —John 20:21–22

3. The Holy Spirit _____ us of sin.

Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else. —Ephesians 2:1–3

STEP 2 DEVELOP YOUR FAITH

S.O.A.P.

SOAP is an acronym for **S**cripture, **O**bservation, **A**pplication, **P**rayer.

SCRIPTURE

One of the important aspects of hearing from God is reading the Bible every day—read a chapter or two every day of the week. We want Cedar Valley to read the Bible Together. Visit cvchurch.org/readingplan and join in reading with us.

OBSERVATION

As you read the Bible, listen for what God is saying to you. The Bible is alive, active, and powerful (Hebrews 4:12, James 1:21). God will speak to you as you read. He will show you something. He may reveal something about Himself or about you. Write down what you're learning and any questions you have.

APPLICATION

Now write out what your observations mean for your life—it could be for today, or for the future. Take what you're learning and write what it means to you personally. You may need to deal with something from your past. You may feel strengthened or encouraged by what you read. As you journal the application, you'll be encouraged to live what you're learning.

PRAYER

After reading the scripture and writing down your observation, write out a prayer. Prayer is simply talking with God. It may be a prayer you need to pray on a regular basis or a simple request for the immediate situations you're facing in life. The more personal you make your journal, the more effective it becomes. Personalize your journal by writing in the first person.

SOAP EXERCISE

Read Psalm 139:1–6

O Lord, you have examined my heart
and know everything about me.
You know my thoughts even when I'm far away.
You see me when I travel
and when I rest at home.
You know everything I do.
You know what I am going to say
even before I say it, Lord.
You go before me and follow me.
You place your hand of blessing on my head.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too great for me to understand!

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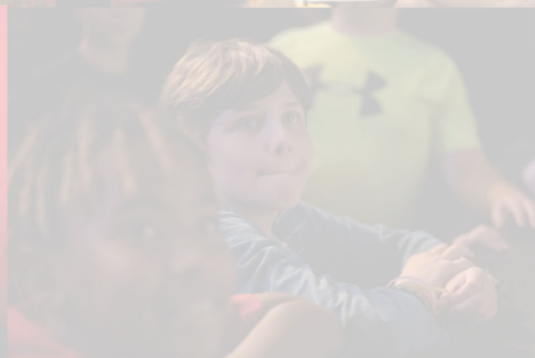
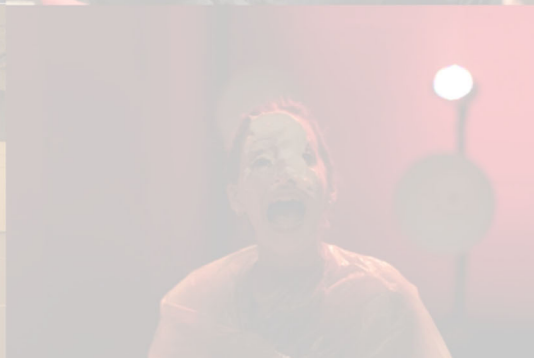
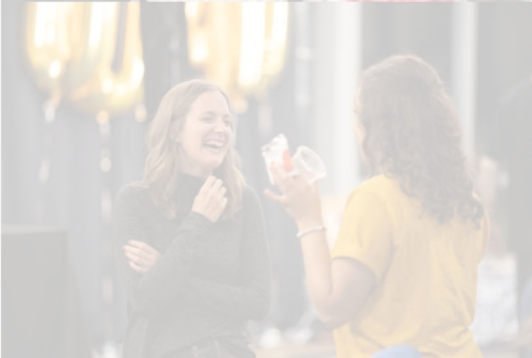
1. Write the scripture in your own words.

2. What do you observe that God might be saying to you?

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3. What does your observation mean for your life right now?

4. Write out a prayer to God about what's on your mind.





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