

# YOUTH NEW MEMBERS CLASS

## THE GAME PLAN

**High School Students** - You are amazing for so many reasons! Life is happening so fast and you are taking on challenges and new experiences minute by minute. We are privileged to be cheering you on as God calls you to live to the fullest in every season of life (including this one)!

Amidst all the transition and change, we are convinced that this is the time for you to take the next step in your walk with Jesus Christ. We love hearing your questions, thoughts, and ideas about how to grow in your faith. Moreover, after much prayer and reflection, we have decided to build a class (*and yes, please try not to cringe at that word 'class' – we promise it will be more fun than what you might be thinking – imagine it more as an interactive Ted talk with casual conversation and snacks* :) designed to help you explore your faith, ask questions, and to learn more about who Jesus is and His role in your life. Our hope for this class is for you to further develop your understanding of the Christian faith, examine your own faith, and make a public statement of faith with the intent of becoming a member of VPC if you choose.

Some of us have grown up in the church and we may know a lot about what it means to follow Jesus. Others of us are new to the church and we are hearing about faith for the first time. Whether you are old or new, we hope that after taking this course, you will desire to be someone who follows Jesus Christ and live a life fully committed to following Him. Our hope is that you can see more of who God is, who He created you to be, and how this plays out for our whole lives. We hope for you to develop an understanding of the Christian faith to be able to share the hope of Jesus with others and be intelligent in our faith.

We also recognize different churches have different ways that they do their new member class (i.e. sometimes called confirmation). Here at VPC, we have designed a class that consists of 5 sessions and several corresponding enrichment activities taking place throughout the spring with a final celebration Sunday where each student will have the opportunity to share a final statement of faith with the church community. At the end of the class, those desiring to become members of the church will be received into membership during worship. Those who have not been baptized will be baptized at that time.

## TOOLS FOR THE TRADE

For this class you are going to need some things:

- Your own Bible (*we can provide one for you if you do not have one*). Scripture memorization will be an important aspect of what we cover in this class (*Note: for your memorization, make sure you are using a translation [e.g. NIV or NRSV] as opposed to a paraphrase. More on that later*).
- A binder that you will receive on the first day free of charge.

To sign up please register online at [vpc.church/students](http://vpc.church/students) or email Travis ([travisk@vpc.church](mailto:travisk@vpc.church)) or Wes ([Wesc@vpc.church](mailto:Wesc@vpc.church)).

# GROUND RULES

In order to get the most out of the class we are asking that you follow through on a few requirements:

- Maintain full attendance for all YNMC class sessions. More than one absence without pre-approval and the student may not be able to complete the class this time around (especially since we have just a few meetings).
- All of the enrichment activities and memory work (\*) must be completed before the end of the course.
- Complete a Statement of Faith (this will be explained in class) and maintain involvement within the life of the church.

# THE ROAD MAP

Date	Room	Session Topic	Enrichment Activity	Memory Work
<b>January 21</b> Class: 10–11:30 AM Parent Meeting 10:30–11:30 AM Lunch provided @ 11:30 AM all together	Meet in B106 (students will eventually move to B108)	<b>Class 1 ) Who is God?</b>  The Doctrine of God  (Trinity & Christology)	Create a timeline of your faith story and share two-minute testimony with the whole group.	John 3:16–17  2 Verses of any Psalm
<b>February 4</b> Class: 10–11:30 AM  *Prayer Partner & Student Meet Up @ Awaken Café 11:30 AM	B108	<b>Class 2 ) What does God do?</b>  <i>Sin &amp; Redemption</i>  <i>(Justification by faith, election for Salvation &amp; Service)</i>	<i>Ask parent, guardian, or spiritual mentor to share some favorite bible verses and ask why they are important to them.</i>	Romans 6:23  1 John 1:9
<b>February 25</b> Class: 10–11:30 AM  *Prayer Partner & Student Meet Up @ Awaken Café 11:30 AM	B108	<b>Class 3 ) How do we know what God does?</b>  <i>Scripture &amp; Sacraments</i>	<i>Visit another church and create a Venn Diagram (similarities and differences from VPC) and communicate with a person of a different faith.</i>  <i>+ Plan to show up early to next class to meet with prayer partners.</i>	II Timothy 3:16–17  Hebrews 4:12
<b>March 17</b> Class: 10–11:30 AM  *Prayer Partner & Student Meet Up @ Awaken Café 11:30 AM	B108	<b>Class 4 ) How is God represented on earth?</b>  <i>The Church (Ecclesiology)</i>	<i>Take Spiritual Gifts Inventory &amp; ask self-guided questions related to calling.</i>	The Apostles Creed  <i>Please also read (not to memorize) Romans 12:1–2 &amp; Deuteronomy 6:4–6.</i>
<b>April 21</b> Class: 10–11:30 AM  *Prayer Partner & Student Meet Up @ Awaken Café 11:30 AM	B108	<b>Class 5 ) What kind of people should we be?</b>  <i>Discipleship &amp; Spiritual Gifts</i>	<i>Sit down and listen to the faith story of at least one parent, guardian, or spiritual mentor.</i>  <i>Complete Statement of Faith (and possible video).</i>	

**May 5** – Youth New Members Reception (+ Student Sunday) in 9:00 am & 10:30 am Worship Services. YNMC class students will be installed and recognized in both services.

**For Parents:** On January 21st Tina Gilbreath will facilitate a one-time parent informational meeting starting at 11:00 AM (followed by lunch at 11:30 AM) in B106 to share about how parents can best support their student throughout the class. After each class, starting February 4th, students will meet with their assigned prayer partners (an adult from VPC). This prayer partner will have the task of being available for processing the class material, praying for, and encouraging their given student throughout the entire course.

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