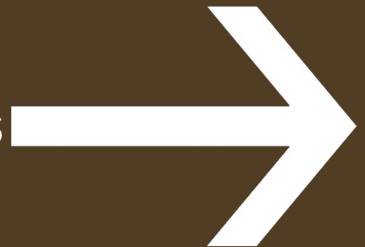


FREE WILL BAPTIST
GUIDE
for new
believers



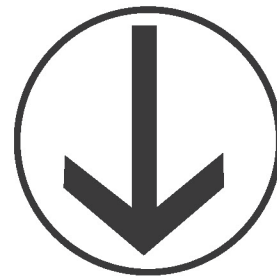
JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME FOR NEW MEMBERS AND BELIEVERS



GENERAL EDITOR RON HUNTER JR.

LEADER'S GUIDE

FREE WILL BAPTIST GUIDE for new believers



LEADER'S GUIDE

PURPOSE OF MATERIAL

This material teaches all the core areas of Free Will Baptist doctrine and history. The material helps new believers and new members get ready to become a solid member of your church. It is important to provide each student with a book to work through the lessons and answer the questions. The *Free Will Baptist Guide for New Believers* can be taught to the entire church for review of foundational material. Often a pastor reviews such material every two or three years during a midweek study.

CLASS TEACHER

Most teachers or pastors using this book will have acquired knowledge of each of these areas in previous study. For a review or for extra preparation beyond what you read in the student book, consider the resources provided in each teacher's lesson for deeper reference.

The lessons have a distinct feel based on the 14 different writers. Therefore the feel and flow of each reads differently and may cause you to like some lessons more than others based on your style preference. This same style distinction shows why some people prefer one gospel over another in the Bible.

CLASS ARRANGEMENT

This class feeds into further discipleship and can be a great on ramp to your small group, Life Groups, and Sunday school classes. If you wish to go further, a short list of studies can carry the student further in foundational areas.

CLASS GUIDELINES AND BOUNDARIES

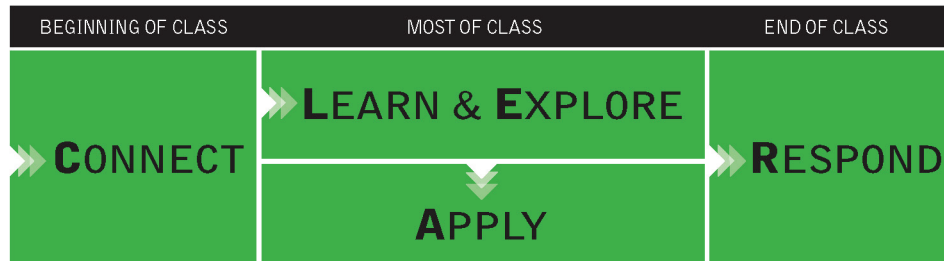
Students should do workbooks at home and come prepared to share answers and listen to additional guidance taught by the teacher.

Any discussion and answers provided by students that are incorrect should not be the object of other's ridicule but should be gently corrected by the teacher. The class design assumes the student is not the expert in these areas, otherwise the need for the class would not exist. Therefore coaching, correction, and mentoring should be expected by the student and the teacher.



LESSON STRUCTURE

The CLEAR method of teaching helps both teacher and student work through the lesson with participation and comprehension. Follow the guide and allow discussion for maximum results and feedback to confirm learning is occurring. CLEAR stands for Connect, Learn, Explore, Apply, and Respond. The flow allows the teacher to connect with the class, get into the lesson (learn) while overlapping explore (going deeper) and apply (activities and discussions). The class always ends with what the students should do with the lesson by suggesting action points.



LESSON RESOURCES

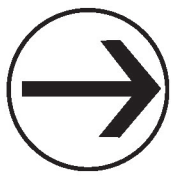
While most teachers of this material will need very little additional information not already provided in the student book, some may prefer to brush up on certain topics. A short list of additional resources will suggest other Free Will Baptist publications containing additional commentary or teaching on topics found in the chapter. Most pastors have each of these in their library but if not, one can purchase these from D6 Family Ministry. Visit D6.family.store for additional resources.

CLASS SET-UP

Unless you are teaching a large group or the entire church, consider placing students in a circle or u-shaped chair arrangement for comfort in answering questions. While not necessary, this arrangement helps facilitate discussion.

TIME FOR LESSONS

Each lesson can be taught in 45 to 90 minutes depending on how many students and how long you allow for each question's discussion. While you could stretch each lesson out into two, it is not recommended. Twelve weeks provides a lengthy commitment for students. You may choose to shorten the study and remove certain chapters at your discretion.



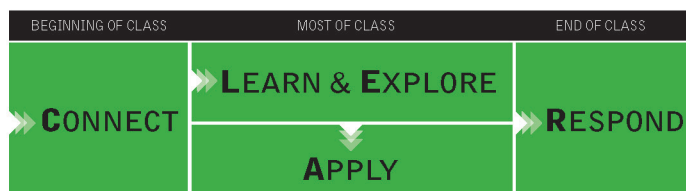
Chapter 1 Your Path

Objective: understand salvation, the difference between free will and predestination, and how a believer can have assurance of salvation.

Time needed: 45-90 minutes

Other helpful resources from your library if you want more material for this lesson:

- *The Free Will Baptist Treatise* – Chapter VI Atonement and Mediation of Christ, Chapter VII the Holy Spirit, Chapter VIII the Gospel Call, Chapter IX Repentance, Chapter X Faith, Chapter XI Regeneration, Chapter XII Justification and Sanctification, Chapter XIII Perseverance of the Saints, Articles of Faith.
- *Free Will Baptist Doctrines* by J. D. O'Donnell (pages 79-110)
- *Understanding Assurance & Salvation* by Robert Picirilli (pages 1-13)
- *Free Will Baptists & Predestination* by the FWB Historical Commission (pages 1-14)
- *Free Will Baptists & the Perseverance of the Saints* by the FWB Historical Commission (pages 10-11)
- *The Randall House Bible Commentary 1, 2, 3 John and Revelation* by Marberry, Pugh, and Shaw (page 94)
- *Quest for Truth* by Leroy Forlines (page 538-566)
- *Biblical Systematics* by Leroy Forlines (Pages 201-230)



CONNECT

Start with reading the classic poem by Robert Frost, *The Road Not Taken* (Google the poem and print it for the class time) and after reading it, ask the class if they will share a decision they chose not to make which would have led them to an undesirable path. Then reassure the students of their decisions to begin the journey with Christ and share a little about the path you have walked up to this point (emphasizing forks in the road and what helped you make some good choices along the way).



LEARN & EXPLORE

JOINING THE HIKE: How can one become a Christ Follower or Christian?

The plan of salvation includes: (1) God's provision of salvation, (2) the sinner's inability to self-save, and (3) the person's absolute freedom to choose Christ. Distinguish between intellectual faith (parachutes exist) and trusting faith (jump from a plane with a parachute).

If you would like to review the plan of salvation now would be a good time.

1. Everyone is a sinner (Romans 3:23).
2. The best we can earn by our own efforts is death (Romans 6:23).
3. We cannot self-save, so Christ did it for us through His death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 5:6).
4. Christ makes salvation available for everyone, whether we receive it or not (Romans 5:8).
5. Christ reconciles us to God, with no residual accusations about our old path (Romans 5:10).
6. God made salvation accessible to everyone in a simple way (Romans 10:8-10).
7. Salvation is for everyone (Romans 10:11-13).

Show the difference in Calvinism and Arminianism with this simple outline.

JOINING THE HIKE: Who can be a Christ Follower or Christian?

Three important points should be made:

1. *We believe that every human being was made in the image of God.* His intellectual, emotional, and volitional personality traits are imprinted on us, making salvation accessible.
2. *We believe that Christ died for everyone.* Calvinism teaches: (1) people are too marred by sin to exercise faith; (2) God pre-selected those He would save before Creation; (3) Jesus didn't die for everyone; only for the pre-selected; (4) God makes your choice for you when He extends Christ's grace; (5) the chosen cannot fall away. However, the Scriptures included in the chapter show that salvation is available to all. We follow Ariminianism, which recognizes that people are so marred by sin they could not choose faith, but God extended grace to enable them to exercise their free will and believe.
3. *We believe you retain your free will after following Christ.* Salvation actually increases our capacity for free will. Salvation is a mind, emotion, and volition-expanding process. Being a Christian means fresh choices each day, as we see in the next section regarding the difficulty of the Christian life.

ASSURANCE

Changing paths (getting on the road leading to Heaven) does not remove us from the basic problems of life—mortgages, sicknesses, discouragement, temptation, and broken hearts. His Path goes *through* them instead of *to* them. Emphasize Christ's faithfulness when problems arise. Write $2+2=4$ on the whiteboard. Emphasize the logic of believing that if God worked hard to save us, He is not interested in abandoning us. Use a flashlight (showing the path ahead) to teach the importance of Bible reading, sermons, and teachings. Use a phone (how it connects us) to illustrate the importance of prayer and fellowship.

APPLY

Questions from the *Free Will Baptist Guide for New Believers*: ask students to share their answers and discuss. (Class size should determine how many should answer, and call on people so everyone gets a chance.)

Give guidance to the students depending on their answers

- Question on page 4 (this will be helpful when sharing your faith with someone who is not a Christian).
- Questions on page 8 (note the second question does not assume everyone in your class has made a salvation decision).
- Question on page 11 (look for feedback that shows they grasp free will as oppose to predestination).

RESPOND

Suggest the students read the book of James before next week's class. It is short, filled with wisdom, and will help establish an early reading pattern to build on later.

Draw 6 concentric circles on the white board, and write "C" in the center, "I" in the next and outward with "R.," "C," "L," and "E." This is the "Circle of Concern," the people you should want to accompany you on the Path.

Christ—Your relationship with Christ is your center.

Intimates—Who do you love the most? Deuteronomy 6 tells us that we must teach our children to follow God with our behavior and words.

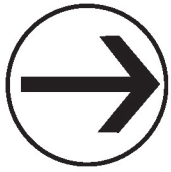
Relatives—Who else in your family needs Christ?

Close friends—These are people with whom you play and associate.

Laborers—co-workers need a relationship with Christ.

Everybody else—God wants everyone to follow Jesus.





Chapter 2 Your Road Map—Part 1

Objective: to gain confidence in the Bible as the only rule of faith and practice, and to understand the urgency and benefit of regular Bible reading and study.

Time needed: 45-90 minutes

Other helpful resources from your library if you want more material for this lesson:

The Free Will Baptist Treatise (page 3, 18, 20, 33)

Free Will Baptist Doctrines by J. D. O'Donnell (pages 1-14)

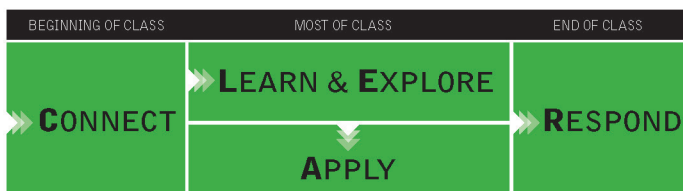
Quest for Truth by Leroy Forlines (page 43-64)

Randall House Bible Commentary, 1 Thessalonians through Philemon (pages 348-349)

Randall House Bible Commentary, James, 1, 2 Peter and Jude (pages 258-260)

Randall House Bible Commentary, 1 Thessalonians through Philemon (pages 245-249)

Randall House Bible Commentary, The Gospel of John (pages 88-89)



CONNECT

Bring the Owner's Manual of an appliance or automobile to class. Read through some suggestions about proper maintenance and operation. Ask these questions: "Are the instructions from the manufacturer helpful?" "Does the manufacturer have any particular insight on how its product is designed to work?" "Does the manufacturer have a valid right to void a warranty if a product is not used according to its intended purpose?"

As we study the Bible, it will be helpful if we recognize that God made us with a specific purpose in mind. He knows how we were designed to operate. The Bible is God's *Owner's Manual* for human beings.



LEARN & EXPLORE

The Source

- God-breathed—2 Timothy 3:16-17
- Word of God—2 Peter 1:20-21
- For Public Reading and Teaching—1 Timothy 4:13-15
- Point to Jesus—Luke 24:27; John 5:37-40

The Evidence

- History
- Archaeology
- Manuscripts
- Prophecy

Orienteering (following the map)

- Read Daily
- Study Regularly
- Memorize Consistently
- Apply Immediately

The Conversation

- Why Pray?
- Why Would God Listen to Me?
- Jesus' Example—Matthew 6:9-13



APPLY & RESPOND

Matthew 6:11-13 teaches you to pray for certain areas of your life. Name the ones you see in Christ's model prayer.

Take time now to list a few prayer requests and begin praying for them daily.

Adopt a Bible Reading Plan from one of the recommended sources.

Acquire Bible Study software for study helps.

Additional Online Resources:

www.e-sword.net

free Bible study software

www.net.Bible.org

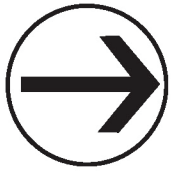
online Bible commentary

www.BlueLetterBible.com

online Bible commentary

www.BibleGateway.com

online collection of Bible translations



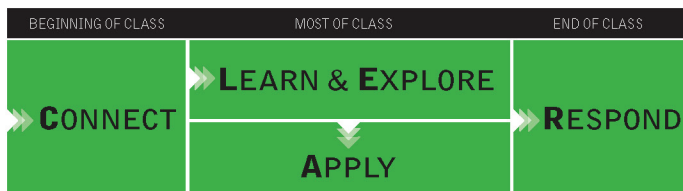
Chapter 3 Your Road Map—Part 2

Objective: to develop a regular practice of Bible reading and be equipped with the proper tools for effective Bible study.

Time needed: 45-90 minutes

Other helpful resources from your library if you want more material for this lesson:

- *The Randall House Bible Commentary Mark* by Robert Picirilli (Mark 1:35 pages 53-54)
- *The Randall House Bible Commentary 1 Thessalonians through Philemon* by Picirilli, Outlaw & Ellis (2 Tim. 3:16 page 348-349)
- *The Randall House Bible Commentary Galatians through Colossians* by Marberry, Picirilli, & Ellis (Eph. 6:17 pages 250-251)
- *The Randall House Bible Commentary Hebrews* by Outlaw (Heb. 4:12 pages 82-84)



CONNECT

Option 1.

Bring pictures of unusual tools (or bring actual tools if you have some). Show them to the students and ask them to identify the tool or explain what it is used for.

Option 2.

What tool would you use to trim the limbs of a tree? What tool would you use to trim a hedge? What tool would you use to trim a rose bush? Each plant has a specific tool that is designed for cutting it.

Transition Statement:

In the lesson today, we will examine some tools for Bible study and how to use them effectively.



LEARN & EXPLORE

The Ascent Into Bible Study

- Gain Biblical Literacy
- Get the Big Picture
- A Journey of Discovery

Our Trailhead: Proper Perspective

- Expectation: The Wonders of the Scriptures
- Openness: Ready to Be Changed
- Reverence: A Respect for Life-Changing Words

Using the Map

- Context: How Does the Passage Fit?
- Observation: What Does the Passage Say?
- Understanding: What's the Point of the Passage?
- Application: Why Does This Passage Matter?

Orienteering: Developing a Routine

- Find a Place
- Choose a Time
- Use the Right Tools
- Choose a Bible Reading Plan or Bible Study
- Pray
- Meditate on the Word
- Memorize Scripture
- Journal



APPLY

As a convenient outline for Bible study, ask these questions:

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to claim?
- Is there a sin to avoid?
- Is there a lesson to learn?
- Is there a principle to apply?

RESPOND

What tools do you have to assist in Bible study?

What time of the day are you going to set aside as a regular appointment to read and study God's Word?

What reading plan are you going to use?

Where in the Bible are you going to begin reading?

Write out the verse you plan to memorize first.

Additional Online Resources:

www.e-sword.net

free Bible study software

www.net.Bible.org

online Bible commentary

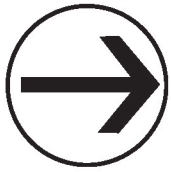
www.BlueLetterBible.com

online Bible commentary

www.BibleGateway.com

online collection of Bible translations





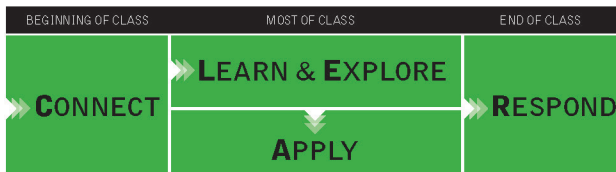
Chapter 4 Your Outfitter—Where We Get Equipped

Objective: help the student realize the value of the universal and grasp the need for the local church, pastor, teachers, and accountability.

Time needed: 45-90 minutes

Other helpful resources from your library if you want more material for this lesson:

- *Free Will Baptist Church Covenant* – see Appendix D
- *The Free Will Baptist Treatise* – Chapter XV Church, Part IV The Practices of Free Will Baptists Chapter I the Local Church.



CONNECT

Ask, the students...who has plenty to wear in your closets? Is there food in your pantry? Where were the food items and clothes before being in your closet? (Where did you get them?)

Not many people wish to return to the era of families growing their own produce, raising their own livestock, and sewing all the families' clothes. In today's world, you enjoy a pantry and clothes closet filled from frequent trips to grocery and department stores.

LEARN & EXPLORE

Explain to the students the passage of equipping found in Ephesians 4:11-16

Ask the students: What is the purpose of the roles mentioned in verse 11?

Notice the chain reaction of one leading to the other and to the other.

What traits fit being a child or an infant (new believer) in Christ? (See verse 14.)

Describe a more mature believer in verse 15 and the opposite traits of verse 14.



Notice the results in verse 16—how is church implied here?

Now walk the students through the major headings of this chapter paraphrasing or summarizing each section in your own words. Stop at key questions noted below during the appropriate section.

APPLY

Questions from the *Free Will Baptist Guide for New Believers*: ask students to share their answers and discuss. (Class size should determine how many should answer, and call on people so everyone gets a chance.)

Give guidance to the students depending on their answers

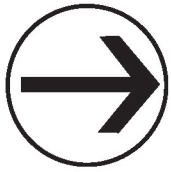
- Page 41—the second question (help the students contrast and describe the two).
- Page 41—the fourth question (remember to show the value of the church being there for the believers more so than the believers being there for the church).
- Page 44—all three questions.

RESPOND

Ask the students how accountability helps them accomplish goals.

Have them describe how a Sunday school, Life Group, or small group teachers and students could provide encouragement, teaching, accountability and more. Talk through how the pastor serves to shepherd the members of the church.





Chapter 5 Your Guide—God Part 1

Objective: understand a biblical concept of God and pattern the example of His moral attributes.

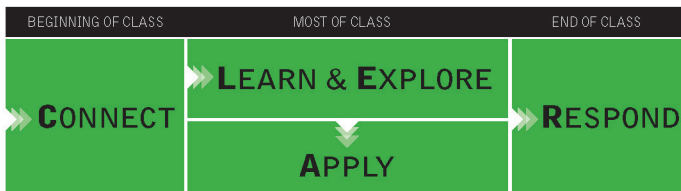
Time needed: 45-90 minutes

Other helpful resources from your library if you want more material for this lesson:

The Free Will Baptist Treatise (pages 3-9, 35)

Free Will Baptist Doctrines by J. D. O'Donnell (pages 31-78)

Quest for Truth by Leroy Forlines (pages 65-79; 81-92)



CONNECT

Option 1.

Let's do a little Math. What is $1+1+1$? Obviously, the answer is 3. When we add three items together the sum is 3. Now, what is $1 \times 1 \times 1$? Oddly, the answer is 1. Why is that? [Allow a brief time for comments.] We don't have to understand *why* this is the case, we just understand that it is. Even if we can't explain it, we can still use the formula to get the right answer on a quiz.

Option 2.

There is a wide variety of ordinary things we use every day, but many of us don't understand how or why they work. However, we use them anyway: fluorescent light bulb, battery, the Internet, television, etc. Choose a few of these items and ask someone to explain how it works. If he or she can't explain it, ask, "Do you have to understand how this works to be able to use it?" Of course the answer is no.

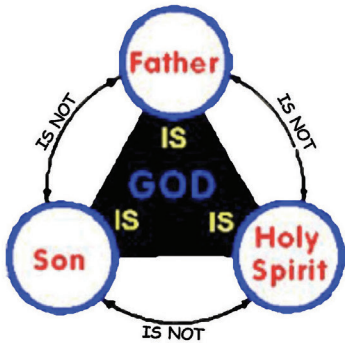
Conclude either connect option with this statement:

Such is the case with the Trinity. It is not a concept we can fully grasp or explain, but since the Bible teaches that God exists as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we accept it as a biblical truth. We don't have to understand it for it to be true. We just take God at His Word.

LEARN & EXPLORE

THE PERSON OF GOD

Scripture is emphatic; there is only one God. However, Scripture is just as clear in teaching that God exists as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This paradox is explained in the triune nature of God: One God in three persons. Just as we trust God's Word in other matters, we must also trust Him regarding His explanation of Himself. Our finite minds can only comprehend so much. Still, God made the effort to communicate to us as much as we could know about Him. This alone tells us much about Him—He is personal and desires a relationship with us.



This ancient symbol, although limited, illustrates the relationship of the persons of the Trinity. The Father is not the Spirit; the Spirit is not the Son, the Son is not the Father. However, the Father is God, the Spirit is God, the Son is God, and in unity God.

No illustration or concept is sufficient to accurately describe God. There are some aspects of an *equilateral triangle* that are helpful in illustrating God. An equilateral triangle has three equal sides. If you take away or diminish any side, you do not have an equilateral triangle. Similarly, if you take away or diminish any person of the Trinity you do not have an accurate biblical description of God.

THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

The triune nature of God is not the only biblical concept of God that defies our comprehension. God is also *Transcendent* and *Immanent*. That is, He is wholly separate and independent of the physical universe and far above and beyond us; still He is personal, near, and present with us.

Moral Attributes of God*

- Holy
- Righteous
- Faithful
- True



- Good
- Loving
- Merciful
- Gracious
- Pure

*(attributes we can imitate, partial list)

Intrinsic (or Natural) Attributes of God**

- Spirit
- Eternal
- Self-Existent
- Perfect
- Sovereign
- Omnipotent (all-powerful)
- Omniscient (all-knowing)
- Omnipresent (everywhere present)
- Immutable (unchanging)

** (attributes of the very nature of God, partial list)

In recent years, some in the Christian community have denied the omniscience of God. Another incorrect view asserts that God is neither all-knowing nor is He all-powerful but He does care. The background to such questions is not hard to understand. If God knows all things, even what we will do before we do it, does this mean we are not free to make real and meaningful choices?

One such view is OPEN THEISM, which argues that several of the attributes of God are contradictory. Much of Open Theism is a misguided reaction to extreme Calvinism in which everything is foreordained and predetermined by God. Arminianism offers a much better interpretation to the conflicts of Calvinism, in that the free will of man makes man accountable for introducing sin and suffering into the world. Also, God's foreknowledge is not causative. First Samuel 23:1-13 illustrates that God can know the contingencies of what *would* happen in a given set of circumstances without that knowledge causing a particular event to occur.

For a thorough examination of Open Theism and the foreknowledge of God, see *God in Eternity and Time: A New Case for Human Freedom* by Robert E. Picirilli.

APPLY

Questions from the *Free Will Baptist Guide for New Believers*: ask students to share their answers and discuss. (Class size should determine how many should answer, and call on people so everyone gets a chance.)

Give guidance to the students depending on their answers.

Question: When people desire to be accepting or tolerant of many views, how can Christ followers present to others there is only one God—The God of the Bible?

Question: How do Jesus' attributes encourage you?

Question: How would you explain the relationship of Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit to God the Father?

Question: How does the fact that the Holy Spirit is deity practically impact a Christian's life?

Question: Can you think of an analogy that captures the various truths involved in the Trinity? (Any analogy while not perfect helps people of all ages to understand the complexity of how the Trinity acts and exists)

Question: How should your awareness of God's omniscience impact your daily actions, words, worries, concerns, relationships, fears, joys, etc.?

Question: How can a perfectly holy God have a relationship with a sinful person?

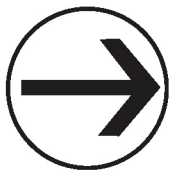
RESPOND

Review the Moral Attributes of God.

Recognize that God desires for us to develop these characteristics in our lives as well. Obviously we will never attain the holiness and righteousness of God, but these traits should be evident in our lives.

Ask God to bring to your mind the attributes He wants to give special attention to developing in your life at this time.





Chapter 6 Your Guide—God Part 2

Objective: to see how God is at work in people’s lives today, and how He functions in His various roles.

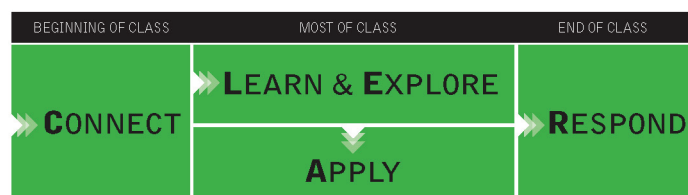
Time needed: 45-90 minutes

Other helpful resources from your library if you want more material for this lesson:

The Free Will Baptist Treatise (pages 3-9, 35)

Free Will Baptist Doctrines by J. D. O’Donnell (pages 31-78)

Quest for Truth by Leroy Forlines (page 113-134, 167-182, 321-335)



CONNECT

The story is told that as the mayor of New York, Fiorello LaGuardia presided over the court when an elderly individual was charged with stealing a loaf of bread. In passing sentence, LaGuardia explained that the person must be punished, the law made no exceptions. A fine of ten dollars was imposed. But then LaGuardia paid the fine himself and fined every person in the courtroom fifty-cents for living in a town where a person had to steal bread to eat. LaGuardia then gave the collection to the defendant.

This story shows one person serving in several roles: mayor, magistrate, deliverer, and helper. In this lesson we will see how God is involved in our lives in various roles, yet still perfectly in order with His character.

LEARN & EXPLORE

GOD THE CREATOR

Various attempts have been made to harmonize the biblical account with scientific theory. *Intelligent Design* is compatible, as far as it goes, but fails to identify the intelligence behind the design, which could accommodate views of alien life forms or nature as the source of the design. *Progressive Creation* and *Theistic Evolution* do disservice to the straight-forward exposition of Scripture and, in effect, make the infallible Word of God bow to the authority of fallible Science. The *Gap Theory* and *Day-Age* are simply poor interpretations of Scripture. *Naturalistic Evolution* denies the work of God and is completely



incompatible with the teaching of Scripture. The simple fact is, if we do not take God's Word as accurate and authoritative in all that it asserts, we have a weak view of inspiration, authority, and reliability of Scripture.

- Who created everything that exists? How was it created?
- Why is God being the Creator so controversial? What is the real issue?
- Should I be concerned about conserving the planet? Why or why not?
- Is the world more random and chaotic or ordered and designed?
- In what areas is God's creating power affecting you personally?
- How does God as Creator give all human life dignity? How should this affect my view of others? How does this speak to areas such as euthanasia, genocide, or abortion?

GOD THE REDEEMER

1. Why do you struggle with the concepts of perfect holiness and absolute justice?
2. What happened to your sins when you were saved?
3. How does belief affect behavior? How does your redemption transfer into your lifestyle?
4. How does adoption apply to the thief on the cross who was saved?
5. Which of the four blessings of redemption means the most to you? Why?
6. Why should you not shy away from terms like the *cross* or the *blood* of Jesus? Why do some people refuse to use them?
7. How should the fact that Jesus suffered the penalty for you affect the way you live for God?

GOD THE CONVICTOR

1. Define conviction. What is its purpose? How is biblical conviction different from feeling guilty? (2 Corinthians 7:8-10)
2. Why does "feel good" preaching not rightly represent the Bible?
3. How do the Old and New Testaments harmonize concerning the teaching about the sinfulness of man?
4. Why did Jesus preach repentance? Why did He die?
5. How does your response to conviction show the condition of your heart?
6. How does the conviction of a lost person and a Christ follower differ? How are they the same?
7. Name some of the roles or functions of the Holy Spirit.



GOD THE SUSTAINER

1. How do the natural laws of the universe show God to be the almighty sustainer of life?
2. Why should prayer be your first response in good times and bad?
3. What is God's response to you when you come to Him in prayer?
4. Give examples of biblical figures that were sustained by God. What were their circumstances, reactions, and God's response?
5. The Holy Spirit is described as the Comforter. Describe the ways He sustains you in this role.

GOD THE ENCOURAGER

1. What are some ways God encourages you?
2. How is grace not just a gift, but a necessity?
3. How are joy, happiness, and fun different?
4. How does the presence of God affect your circumstances?
5. John 17 and other passages talk about God helping you. How are each of these passages an encouragement? What promises are given that will help you today?

APPLY

Questions from the *Free Will Baptist Guide for New Believers*: ask students to share their answers and discuss. (Class size should determine how many should answer, and call on people so everyone gets a chance.)

Give guidance to the students depending on their answers:

What difference does it make if you fail to make application of who God is?

What is the only accurate and authoritative source for who God is and what God does?

If you are hurt because God did not do what you wanted Him to do, what should your next action(s) be?

How would you explain to a friend how to understand who God is and what He does?

RESPOND

Do a Thank You/Therefore exercise.

I am thankful God is my Redeemer because . . . (example: I belong to Him.)

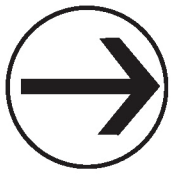
Therefore I should . . . (example: remember Whose I am.)

I am thankful God is my Convictor because . . . (He cares enough to correct and direct me.) Therefore, I should . . . (listen to His Spirit and repent.)

I am thankful God is my Sustainer because . . . (He upholds my world—He is all I need.) Therefore, I should . . . (look to Him for strength and rest in Him.)

I am thankful God is my Encourager because . . . (He gives me joy when all around seems hopeless.) Therefore, I should . . . (look to Him for encouragement rather than merely to people or the playthings of the world.)





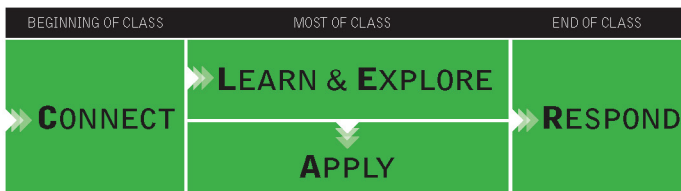
Chapter 7 Your Destination

Objective: help the student describe Heaven based upon biblical description and help the student understand the meaning of the ordinances.

Time needed: 45-90 minutes

Other helpful resources from your library if you want more material for this lesson:

- *Free Will Baptist Doctrines* by J. D. O'Donnell (Pages 159-174)
- *Free Will Baptists & the Washing of the Saints' Feet* (pamphlet pages 1-14)
- *The Washing of the Saints Feet* by J. Matthew Pinson
- *Free Will Baptist Treatise* (Part II Chapter xviii)
- Free Will Baptist Church Covenant (Appendix E)



CONNECT

Ask, the students:

1. Where did you get your first ideas about Heaven?
2. Who do you know that has preceded you to Heaven?

LEARN & EXPLORE (Heaven)

Explain to the students the value of Heaven is not so much life after death, escaping Hell, or enjoying the beauty of Heaven, but about living and worshipping your Lord and Savior throughout eternity. It is spending eternity with the one who loves you more than any other and getting to Him more than you ever could here on earth.

All the passages of Scripture teach a literal Heaven and a literal Hell.

The biggest benefit of Heaven can be found in Revelation 21:3—Dwelling with God; better than living in the White House or Buckingham Palace.

APPLY (Heaven)

Questions from the *Free Will Baptist Guide for New Believers*: ask students to share their answers and discuss. (Class size should determine how many should answer, and call on people so everyone gets a chance.)

Page 75—Ask both questions on the page and allow students to share.

Page 79—Ask the second question.

LEARN & EXPLORE (Ordinances — Baptism)

Talk about why Free Will Baptists immerse rather than sprinkle (Use Mark 1:9-10, Romans 6:1-4). Help the students understand that Christ came up and out of the water and we, as Christ-followers, identify with Christ and are symbolically buried with Christ through baptism. Matthew 28:18-20 reveals baptism as part of the great commandment.

APPLY (Ordinances — Baptism)

Questions from the *Free Will Baptist Guide for New Believers*: ask students to share their answers and discuss. (Class size should determine how many should answer, and call on people so everyone gets a chance.)

Give guidance to the students depending on their answers

- Page 81—ask both questions (take time to plan a baptism service and recognize it as a time to be an outreach to non-believing family and friends).

LEARN & EXPLORE (Ordinances — Communion)

Walk through a communion service with the students, read the passage of Scripture, and describe why Christians continually practice this ordinance when we only get baptized once. Refer to the Jewish Passover as a permanent and lasting observance and how communion reminds the believer of deliverance from the former life because of Christ's crucifixion. Walk the believers through the contemplative steps found on pages 82-83.



APPLY (Ordinances – Communion)

Questions from the *Free Will Baptist Guide for New Believers*: ask students to share their answers and discuss. (Class size should determine how many should answer, and call on people so everyone gets a chance.)

Give guidance to the students depending on their answers

- Page 83—ask second question. (This is a great way to see if the students grasp the teaching of Communion.)

LEARN & EXPLORE (Ordinances – Feet Washing)

Read John 13:14-17 and describe the principles of feet washing to the students. The two main principles describe humility and regular confession of one's sins.

APPLY (Ordinances – Feet Washing)

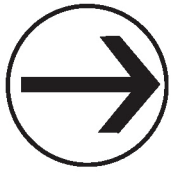
Questions from the *Free Will Baptist Guide for New Believers*: ask students to share their answers and discuss. (Class size should determine how many should answer, and call on people so everyone gets a chance.)

Give guidance to the students depending on their answers

- Page 85—ask both questions.

RESPOND

Show the student how each ordinance gives a glimpse of Heaven and insures a continued preparation for the final destination.



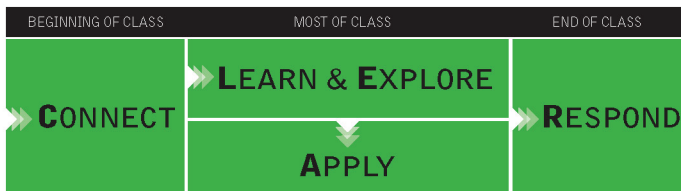
Chapter 8 Your Hiking Partners

Objective: help students understand the purpose, benefits, and significance of the Church Covenant.

Time needed: 45-90 minutes

Other helpful resources from your library if you want more material for this lesson:

- Free Will Baptist Church Covenant (Appendix E)



CONNECT

Give a small stick to a student and ask him or her to break it. Then give the student a small bundle of three or four sticks of the same size and ask him or her to break them. The point is clear. We are stronger together.

LEARN & EXPLORE (APPLY combined in this section)

Page 95—Ask the question at the bottom of the page.

Page 97—Ask the second question on the page.

Page 98—What is the significance of maintaining Christian principles and obligations *everywhere*?

Page 98—Discuss ways the gospel can be spread in each of the areas listed.

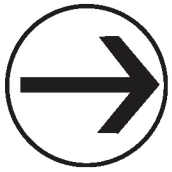
A covenant is a binding commitment or promise. First Corinthians 5:12; 6:1–3, and Galatians 6:1–2 illustrate the responsibility of the church to hold each other accountable, not for the purpose of condemning each other, but to maintain the purity of the church and the correction and restoration of those who err.



RESPOND

Be willing to love your fellow believers enough that you take the difficult step to lovingly point out wrong behavior or doctrine and also be willing to humbly accept any correction others may give you.





Chapter 9 Your Etiquette

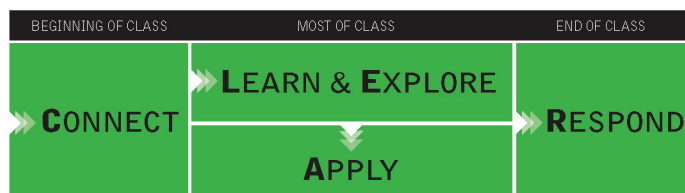
Objective: help the student realize the privilege of being adopted in the family of God and recognize how to treat other siblings within the family in light of free will, liberty, and grace. A review of the Free Will Baptist Covenant will introduce its meaning.

Time needed: 45-90 minutes

Other helpful resources from your library if you want more material for this lesson:

- *Grace in Empty Spaces* by Mark McPeak and Emily White Youree (Week one section)
- *Free Will Baptist Treatise* (Chapters XIX, XXI, and XXII)

This lesson uses Scripture, the Free Will Baptist Covenant and questions to teach the main points. Use the questions and guide the students through the answers, allowing them to discover a biblical approach to family etiquette within the body of Christ. This lesson has more questions than others to help the student grasp biblical principles first in order to produce a behavior reflective of principles. Do not be afraid to spend most of the time with the questions in this lesson but guide the answers biblically by your own preparation by answering them yourself as the teacher before class.



CONNECT

Start with question at top of page 100 and the third question on the same page

LEARN & EXPLORE (APPLY combined in this section)

Explain the definition of etiquette to your students (describe how this applies to relationships among believers based on the student text).

Rarely should a teacher read from the text, but occasionally a section stands out worthy of special attention. Read the three paragraphs on page 100 and 101.



Page 101—ask the question at the bottom of the page.

Page 102—ask the last question on the page.

Describe “friendly fire” as found on page 102 and explain how there is no place for it within the body of Christ.

Page 103—ask the first three questions (The last one should be asked rhetorically)

Page 105—ask both questions

Page 106—allow one student to answer each question on this page, give commentary as needed.

The section on page 107 describes why we have different denominations, but even within denominations the people rarely agree on a specific list of “dos and don’ts,” which can result in friction. Be familiar with this section and express this to your students in your own words to help them grasp what a proper response should be when differences occur.

Explain the fallacy of claiming spiritual liberty as a license to do whatever a person desires since liberty is limited by the commands and prohibitions of Scripture.

Page 108—ask the third question

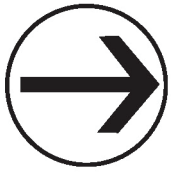
Describe free will, and how each church is autonomous (has it’s own free will) but chooses to be part of a larger body under the agreement of the *Free Will Baptist Treatise*.

Page 109—You may wish to read the key section in the Free Will Baptist Article of Faith to the students and ask the questions on this page. (Make sure the students understand free will).

Page 111—Ask all the questions on this page.

RESPOND

Read the bullet points about making wise choices or unwise choices found on page 112.



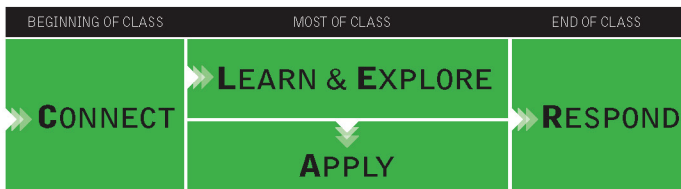
Chapter 10 Your Itinerary—Stewardship

Objective: help the student manage the resources God has given to each Christ follower. This lesson primarily focuses on the stewardship of our spiritual gifts, our time, and money.

Time needed: 45-90 minutes

Other helpful resources from your library if you want more material for this lesson:

- *Randall House Bible Commentary 1 Corinthians* by Picirilli (pages 174-186)
- *Free Will Baptist Treatise* (Appendix to chapter VII)
- Spiritual Gifts Analysis from churchgrowth.org (See note on page 117)
 - Have the students bring the results of the analysis to class
 - Bring a list of all voluntary church positions available for members and nonmembers to do while utilizing their spiritual gifts.
- Consider bringing your church budget (and/or financial report) to introduce the operational costs of the church to new members.



CONNECT

Start by asking for definitions from the students for the word *manager*.

Explain how the Bible uses the word *steward* as another word for *manager*.

Ask if the student's children spend money in different ways from other siblings?

Ask if one sibling keeps his or her room cleaner than another sibling?

Note the differences of talents among children that reflect the strengths found within the members of the church and how combining these talents and gifts bring the very best to God in worship and service.



LEARN & EXPLORE (APPLY combined in this section)

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

There is not complete agreement among Christians today on how many spiritual gifts there are. While lists of gifts appear in Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4, there are several other spiritual gifts, such as craftsmanship in the Old Testament, with the building of the tabernacle and the temple. Many Christians believe that some of the spiritual gifts have ceased to be given after the first century. This is the Free Will Baptist belief, specifically regarding the gift of tongues.

Walk the students through types of gifts, either from page 114 of the student book or from the Spiritual Gifts Analysis tool print out from the Web.

Page 115—ask the questions at the bottom of the page.

Describe what church would look like if no one used his or her spiritual gifts at church; everyone would be takers and not givers. No one would be serving as the Bible describes.

Page 117—Ask students to share their dominant gifts.

Talk through possible places to serve either immediately or upon membership, depending on church policy. Try to get each student involved as early as possible in some facet of ministry service.

Should someone ask about tongues or you want to go further, the *Treatise of Free Will Baptists* addresses the gift of tongues (appendix to chapter VII)

“Tongues were given as a special gift to the early church as only one sign which confirms the witness of the Gospel to unbelievers.

While tongues were bestowed by the sovereign will of God on some believers, all did not speak with tongues. When this gift was abused, it became a source of disturbance in the congregational meetings. To eliminate confusion and correct the error, Paul set particular guidelines for the Christian church to follow. The gift of tongues was neither an evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, nor does it bring about sanctification.

We believe that speaking in tongues as a visible sign of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is an erroneous doctrine to be rejected.” (*Treatise*)

TITHING

First, a steward or manager recognizes that he or she is not the owner. Psalm 24 reminds us God owns everything. Walk the students through how a manager seeks to please the owner and gives Him first priority (see page 119 of the student book). Use the illustration of your student being hired to pilot a private jet for a wealthy businessman. The businessman allows the use of the jet for the student’s personal interests. How would the businessman feel about the jet never being available for his use because the student always had it on personal errands? Describe how this illustration fits tithing, time and talents.



Describe tithing, and its biblical basis.

The *Treatise* states, “Under the Gospel, the first day of the week, in commemoration of the resurrection of Christ, and by authority of Christ and the apostles, is observed as the Christian Sabbath.” (*Treatise*, section xiv)

Regarding tithing, the *Treatise* says, “Both the Old and New Scriptures teach tithing as God’s financial plan for the support of His work.” (*Treatise*, section xvi)

Page 121—Ask question at the bottom of the page.

Page 124—Ask both questions and share the scriptural support for the second question as found in the text of the student book.

MANAGING OTHER AREAS

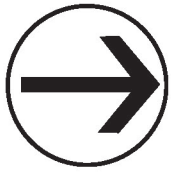
Describe managing or stewarding commitments, reputation, spiritual growth, church, relationships, and Kingdom growth. (Read the Free Will Baptist Church Covenant together found in Appendix E).

Page 124—Ask the both questions.

RESPOND

Ask the students to provide a copy of their Spiritual Gifts analysis for future consideration by the pastor or staff when determining positions. Ask for commitments to support the church upon membership with time, spiritual growth, talents, and financial means.





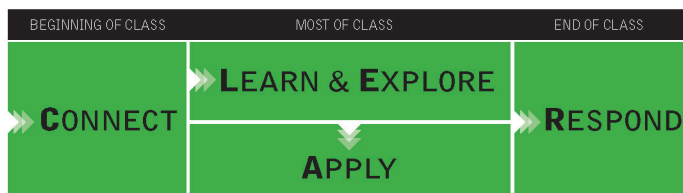
Chapter 11 Your Responsibility— Witness

Objective: help the student exhibit responsibility for his or her testimony, understand the dangers of backsliding and grasp the magnitude of apostasy. The student should identify ways to share their faith with non-Christ followers both personally and through support of other outreach organizations.

Time needed: 45-90 minutes

Other helpful resources from your library if you want more material for this lesson:

- *Grace Faith and Free Will* by Robert Picirilli (pages 183-234)
- *Free Will Baptist Treatise* (Chapter xiii)
- *Understanding Assurance and Salvation* by Robert Picirilli
- *Free Will Baptist Doctrines* by J. D. O'Donnell (pages 95-110)
- Appendix F of the student book for other resources



CONNECT

Ask what the students would think if a person from Tennessee claimed to be driving toward California but never drives west. Would you believe what they claimed? If a person who claims to be hiking the Christian lifestyle but never appears to practice his or her faith, would it confuse others? (Read James 1:22; 2:14-26.)

LEARN & EXPLORE (APPLY combined in this section)

FAITH AND WORKS

For the section on “faith and works” it is recommended to make sure you achieve a balance in the two extremes. Other chapters cover the concept of grace and how unworthy we are, yet we never want to even come close to teaching salvation by works or being sustained by our works. But we also want to teach that grace does produce works in the life of a Christian and even one of the clearest sections in the Bible on how



we are saved—Ephesians 2:1-10—ends by saying we are saved to do good works. We can do nothing to earn salvation, but standing on God’s grace, we can do a lot by how we live after we are saved to glorify and worship God.

Page 127—Ask the two questions on this page.

U-TURNS, GOING BACKWARDS

If someone says they are hiking out of the Grand Canyon but keeps walking downward rather than upward, it is pretty clear the hiker is headed the wrong way. Sometimes hiking down the canyon is easier but the end result leads to a place one cannot survive, in the bottom of the canyon. Rescuing a hiker gets him or her heading in the right direction, up toward the rim and out to safety. This illustrates backsliding or heading in the wrong direction spiritually. Be familiar with pages 127-129 and describe backsliding biblically to the students.

Page 130—Ask the students each of the questions and guide their answers if their view fails to align biblically. Help each to grasp the last question and hear from more than one student on this one to insure various wording all describing the same answer.

SHARING YOUR FAITH

Summarize page 131 to the students and ask them to memorize the A.C.T.S. method of sharing one’s faith as stated at the bottom of page 131 and on page 132. Now is a good time for role playing, with students divided up one on one

Page 132—Help the student shape a short 1 to 2 minute presentation of his or her testimony as described in the paragraph just above the question on page 132. Help them refine it not to show glory or brag about their pre-salvation life. This is a great way to lead into the A.C.T.S. method.

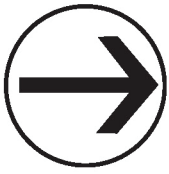
Introduce other ways a person can share his or her faith around the world. Introduce organizations your church supports and help the student decide which ones to become involved in supporting as well.

Page 135—Ask the both questions.

RESPOND

Ask the student to prayerfully seek an opportunity to share his or her faith with someone from the question on page 127. Tell them you want them to share at the beginning of class next time they do share their faith even if the person does not accept Christ.





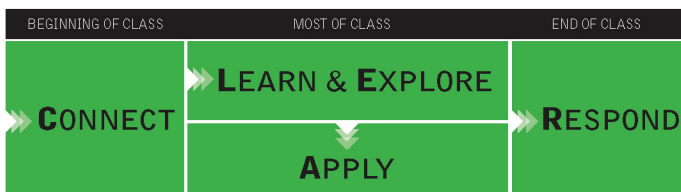
Chapter 12 Your Heritage

Objective: help the student appreciate the history and heritage of the National Association of Free Will Baptists and the student's local church.

Time needed: 45-90 minutes

Other helpful resources from your library if you want more material for this lesson:

- *A Free Will Baptist Handbook* by J. Matthew Pinson
- *Free Will Baptist Treatise* (Chapter xiii)
- *Free Will Baptist History* by William F. Davidson
- *To Honor Our Heritage: A Guide to Preserving Local Church History* by Eric K. Thomsen



CONNECT

Ask someone to explain some significance about their surname (family's last name). Ask if anyone has traced their family tree?

<https://nypost.com/2010/02/25/kin-we-quit-being-madoffs/>

Share how Bernie Madoff's daughter-in-law changed Madoff's grandkids last names because of the disgrace and shame brought to the family. An organization's history and reputation matters and Free Will Baptist have a proud legacy and bright future ahead.

LEARN & EXPLORE (APPLY combined in this section)

CHURCH HISTORY

Give an overview of church history, paying attention to the development of the local church in the book of Acts. Using the material in the student book (or supplemental resources) on page 138-139 give a short summary of the Reformation.

Page 139—Ask the questions on this page. (The answer to the first is found in a title of a book in the first section and part of the narrative in the section following this question).

FREE WILL BAPTIST HISTORY

Share the two lines of Free Will Baptist (Northern and Southern) and the merger of 1910-11 took away 1100 churches and several major colleges. Emphasize 1935 as the modern reorganization of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Name the nine agencies that serve the local churches and the combined body of all Free Will Baptists. Share the mission statement of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

Page 142—Ask the students each of the questions. Ask for two or three possible answers to the last question on this page.

FREE WILL BAPTIST ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Show how the local church forms the district association/conference, the districts form the state, and the states form the national association. The National Association is not a top-down nationally run organization but rather a local church upward-governed association. Share a little about the nine national agencies and the purpose of each. Show how each agency serves the local church and how accountability occurs in the running of each agency. Describe the history of the International Fellowship of Free Will Baptists.

YOUR CHURCH HISTORY

Now give an overview of how your church began and some of its highlights through history. Share how the church ministers to the local community and what it has done to have an impact on the community.

Page 147—Ask both questions after sharing your local church history.

RESPOND

Challenge your students to be part of the history of the your church and become part of the larger purposes with participation in the bigger body of Free Will Baptists through support of the national agencies. Consider adopting a missionary, home mission church planter, or college student to support through prayer and financial giving. Consider asking your men's ministry and women's ministry to consider joining Master's Men and Women Nationally Active For Christ. Consider placing any financial savings with the Free Will Baptist Foundation for what is typical larger than bank and CD level returns. Make sure your pastor is enrolled in and the church contributes to the Free Will Baptist Retirement program. Give serious consideration to purchasing D6 curriculum and small group Bible studies from D6 Family Ministry to insure our doctrine is taught and solid biblical teaching is presented.

