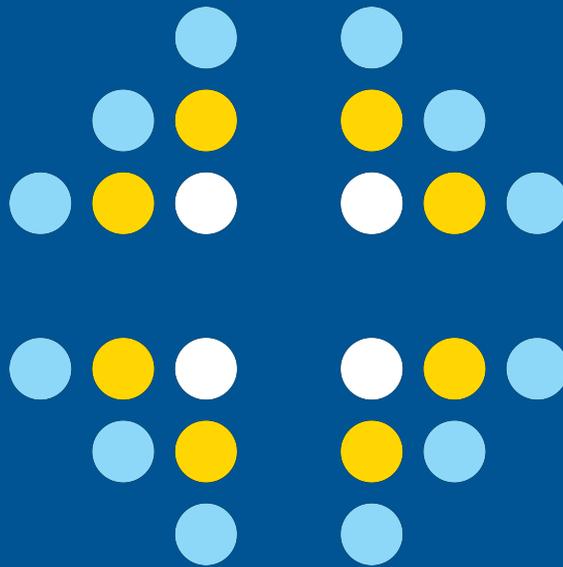


FIRST BAPTIST BRYAN

ACCOUNTABILITY



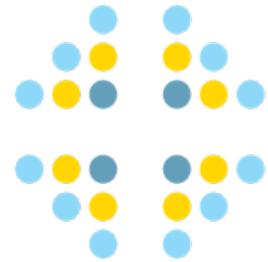
INFORMATION PACKET

2018-2019

Thank you for expressing interest in Accountability at First Baptist Bryan. I believe that Accountability Groups establish the biblical disciplines in a believer's life necessary for discipleship maturity and multiplication. Many churches settle for good church programming that stops short of the finish line of the Lord's Great Commission mandate to become disciple-makers at home, in communities, and around the world.

The Mission of First Baptist Bryan is *to make Jesus Christ our all, and to share Him with all*. This is the heartbeat of Accountability—groups of believers who invite each other into accountability for making Jesus Lord over their hearts, lives and witness.

The Vision of First Baptist Bryan answers the question: how will we accomplish our mission to make Jesus our all and share Him with all? The answer is that we will *make disciples of Jesus Christ through Worship, GroupLife, and Accountability, who will share Him at home, in our community, and around the world*. Our church logo illustrates this discipleship process. The outer level of light blue circles represents the congregation in Worship. The middle yellow level of circles represents participants of GroupLife. And the inner darker blue level represents those who have joined an Accountability Group. As individuals move through this progression, they make much of King Jesus and His Kingdom purposes, as emphasized by the cross shape in the logo's center.



In Worship and GroupLife, you will certainly find steady encouragement and opportunity to make Jesus your all and to share Him with all. But in Accountability Groups, you will invite others to hold you accountable for this on a weekly basis. The believers in your group will gracefully help you work through those things that are derailing efforts to make Jesus your all and share Him at home and other places of influence.

This packet overviews Accountability at First Baptist Bryan. Many have encountered some form of accountability in the past—some good, some bad. For the next few minutes, set your past accountability experiences aside. Open your mind to a form of accountability specifically designed to help every believer make Jesus their all and share Him with all.

In closing, imagine with me, if you will, what our church would look like in three, five and ten years if the members of our church have been in accountability to one another in this way. Imagine the impact a church full of multiplying disciples could make in families, our BCS community, and around the world. I believe this is exactly what God has always intended for His church to be about, and I'm excited that the Lord is leading our church in this direction.

Prayerfully continue through this packet. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask David Booth, our Families Pastor, who will be giving leadership to this area in our church. We are committed to providing every Accountability Group Facilitator and group member the tools they need to mature and multiply as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Sharing Jesus, our All!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Heiligman".

Jim Heiligman, Senior Pastor



Accountability FAQs

What is an Accountability Group?

An Accountability Group is a gender-specific group of no more than five Christians who gather weekly to intentionally support each other in making Jesus their All and sharing Him with all. Every group will have a Facilitator who will help the group keep weekly focus and ready the group to multiply annually.

Accountability Groups provide an encouraging and safe environment for members of First Baptist Bryan to purposefully pursue *making Jesus Christ our all and sharing Him with all*. Groups value confidentiality, honesty, vulnerability, grace, growth and multiplication.

What will groups discuss each week?

During meetings, groups will use the Accountability Bookmark, designed to focus the conversation on one another's growth in making Jesus our All and sharing Him with all.

Every week, groups will select a book of the Bible for members to read during the week—being attentive to the Spirit's personal application of the text in prayer. If the group selects a smaller book of the Bible, the group can read it through several times during the week to become saturated in the book. If a larger book is selected, the group can read about 20 chapters a week (2-3 chapters a day is recommended).

As groups work through the questions on the Accountability Bookmark during weekly meetings, they will be prompted to share how the Spirit spoke to them through the Word and their responses to His voice.

How do group members grow spiritually?

Accountability Groups foster transformation by the power of the Holy Spirit through:

- Members prayerfully reading, understanding, and obeying God's Word during the week
- Members welcoming accountability from one another for Christ's Lordship in life
- Strategic and specific prayer for sharing Christ with those who need to receive Him

Who leads an Accountability Group?

Accountability Group Facilitators are selected, trained and commissioned by church leadership to lead an Accountability Group. Facilitators ready group members to lead future groups.

What will preparation for Accountability Group Facilitators look like?

Every new Facilitator will go through New Facilitator Training provided by the church. Ongoing Facilitator Training will further encourage and deepen understanding in the following areas:

Supremacy of Christ – *making Christ our All*

Core Theology – *understanding God's self-revelation in the Bible through a gospel lens*

Hermeneutics – *rightly understanding and applying the Bible*

Spiritual Formation – *understanding how God changes people*

Evangelism – *tactics for disciples sharing Christ at home, workplace and community*

Apologetics – *working through doubts and objections*

Group Dynamics -- *handling group challenges with grace and skill*

What are the Group Facilitator's responsibilities?

- Attend New Facilitator Training and establish a new group under provided guidelines
- Attend Facilitator Training sessions for support, updates, and training
- Use the Accountability Bookmark to give focus and direction to the group
- Enlist and develop group members to become facilitators of another group
- Multiply within 9-12 months of your first Accountability Group meeting

Will I randomly be placed in a group with complete strangers?

Anyone desiring accountability will participate in their own grouping placement. We will consider any grouping preferences desired such as grouping by age, by GroupLife class, by geography, by friendships, or by scheduling availability.

How quickly can I start in my group?

The rate at which a group can begin varies wildly depending on whether or not a group is ready to form and according to the personalities and schedules of those available to form a new group. Some start within a few weeks, and others typically can get started within a few months after everyone in the new group coordinates their schedules with one another.

What happens after I indicate my readiness to be in a group?

- You will receive an email asking for your grouping preferences
- An available Facilitator will be contacted to begin forming this new group
- You will be contacted to review the progress in forming your group
- The new group will decide on a meeting day, time, and location that works for them
- The group will sign, date and submit the Commitment page when ready to commit

Are new believers plugged into Accountability Groups?

New believers will be paired with staff members, deacons, or other leaders and their spouses for one-on-one mentoring in discipleship essentials, prior to being invited into an Accountability Group. As they are being mentored, new believers will be encouraged to faithfully engage in Worship and GroupLife. They will be encouraged to make the Accountability Group Commitment after having established these essential foundations.

Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Hebrews 3:12-13

and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds

Hebrews 10:24

ACCOUNTABILITY CONVERSATIONS

An Accountability Bookmark is given to every group member. On one side are questions designed to provide structure and focus for self-guided intentionality during the week, as well as during weekly meetings. On the reverse side are prayer prompts to be in strategic prayer for those who need to respond to Jesus as Savior and Lord.

Making Jesus Christ your All

Bible: How much of the Bible reading did you complete this week? What did it reveal about God and the grace we have in Christ? What response is God prompting you to make?

Worship: When did you spend quiet time with the Lord this week? Did you genuinely express worship, love and surrender to Jesus during this time?

Walk: How did you abide in Christ throughout each day? What adjustments are needed to take up your cross and follow Jesus daily?

Temptation: How did you respond to any temptations you faced this week? What idols are revealed by your temptation or sin? How will you walk in repentance and victory?

Stewardship: Were you a faithful steward of your finances this week? Did you glorify God with your body's health, thoughts, words and actions?

Sharing Him with all

Relationships: Did you spend enough quality time with your family and other important relationships? How did you intentionally influence them to make Jesus their All?

Unity: Are your words only building others up? Do you need to extend grace and reconciliation to anyone (no name) who has wronged you, or been wronged by you, in word or action?

Evangelism: In what ways did you intentionally love and verbally invite unchurched persons into a relationship with Jesus Christ and His church this week?

Prayer: Did you pray for this group, and those God wants us to reach? Did you faithfully pray for the unchurched in your spheres of influence?

Have you been completely truthful today? Is there anything else you need to share?

Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:1-2

confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed

James 5:16

BOOKMARK SIDE 2:

Strategic Prayer Focus

Prayerfully identify 2 - 3 persons in your family, friendships, neighborhood, or workplace who need to turn to Jesus as Lord and Savior. List their names below. Each member of your group should also write down these names on their cards so that all of us are praying weekly for each one who needs Christ.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

- Lord, I pray that you draw _____ to Yourself (John 6:44)
- I pray that _____ seeks to know You (Acts 17:27)
- I pray that _____ hears and believes the Word of God for what it really is (1 Thes. 2:13)
- I ask You, Lord, to prevent Satan from blinding _____ to the truth (2 Cor. 4:4; 2 Tim. 2:25-26)
- Holy Spirit, I ask you to convict _____ of his/her sin and need for Christ's redemption (John 16:7-14)
- I ask that You send someone who will share the Gospel with _____ (Matt. 9:37-38)
- I also ask that You give me the opportunity, the courage and the words to share the truth with _____ (Col. 4:3-6; Eph. 6:19-20)
- Lord, I pray that _____ would put all of his/her trust in Christ (John 1:12, 5:24)
- Lord, I pray that _____ turns from his/her sin and follows Christ as Lord (Acts 17:30-31; 2 Cor. 5:15; 1 Thes. 1:9-10)
- Lord, I pray that _____ confesses Christ as Lord, takes root, grows in faith and bears much fruit for Your Glory (Rom. 10:9-10; Col. 2:6-7; Luke 8:15).

Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation

Romans 10:1

ACCOUNTABILITY Group COMMITMENT

To participate in a First Baptist Bryan Accountability Group, you are asked to dedicate yourself to God, this church, and to the members of your group by making the following commitments. Please take time to prayerfully review the commitments below before signing. Your Facilitator will lead the group to sign the Accountability Group Commitment at an upcoming meeting.

1. **Attendance:** I will make our meetings a top priority in my schedule and will contact my Facilitator whenever I have a scheduling conflict or will be late to a meeting.
2. **Participation:** I will strive to fulfill my personal weekly spiritual disciplines and will be prepared to involve myself in group accountability, confession, discussion and prayer.
3. **Multiplication:** I will support the annual multiplication efforts this group will be making, under the leadership of the staff, in order to provide Accountability for others.
4. **Confidentiality:** I agree to keep everything that is shared strictly between group members, unless otherwise agreed upon, and that failing to do so will result in biblical confrontation and possibly dismissal from the group.
5. **Respect:** I understand that everyone has the right to his or her own opinion, therefore, I will not be offended or derailed from our goal when disagreements arise.
6. **Care and Support:** I give my permission to be called upon by any group member at any time, especially in times of crisis.
7. **Church Body:** I will support the work, mission and unity of our church and church leadership, and will encourage others to do the same. This includes faithful participation in Worship, GroupLife, giving, service, and Accountability multiplication.
8. **Accountability:** I give permission to group members to hold me accountable to these commitments and to confront me in Christian love if I stray from Christ's lordship.

Having received Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, and because I understand that I am called to be a disciple and make disciples, my desire is to be part of an Accountability Group that encourages its current and future group members to make Jesus their all and share Him with all. I agree to focus my efforts and draw from God's help to fulfill these stated commitments.

Facilitator: _____ Signed: _____
(please print)

Name: _____ Signed: _____
(please print)

Date Signed: ____ / ____ / ____ Regular Meeting Time & Place: _____

let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith

Hebrews 12:1b-2a