

Lesson 1: Who Are We?

We are very grateful for your desire to learn more about Life Point Baptist Church. We are especially excited about your interest in becoming one of us. This class is designed to accomplish two goals. First, it is designed to introduce you to the central characteristics that make Life Point what it is. This is necessary for you to determine if Life Point is the church for you. And if you join, knowing who we are is necessary for perpetuating the founding vision for the church. We praise the Lord for our heritage, and we want to continue building on our foundation. Second, this class is designed to help you make an easy and fruitful transition into the life and ministry in the church.

I. The History of Life Point

A. Our Founder: Bryan Brock

- Bryan Brock was born in Santa Maria and lived in Southern California for about 8 years before his family moved to Watertown, WI. God used his family roots in Southern California to develop his burden for the spiritual needs of this region. Over time the Lord molded that desire into a calling to plant a church in Apple Valley.
- Bryan completed a B.A. at Maranatha Baptist University in Watertown, WI. After college, Bryan interned under his father-in-law Marty Marriott at Faith Baptist Church, Warren, MI, while he completed a M.Div., at Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary in Allen Park, MI.
- In the summer of 2003, Bryan and his wife Rebecca began raising support to plant a church in Apple Valley. In 2004 Faith Baptist Church of Warren, MI, commissioned the Brocks to the work of church planting, and the Brocks moved to Apple Valley to start a new church.

B. The Original Vision for Life Point

- The Brocks were not attracted to Apple Valley because there were no churches here. Rather, they recognized a need for a particular type of church.
- The Brocks purpose in starting Life Point was to establish an independent Baptist church committed to Word-centered, expositional preaching, conservative, God-focused worship, personal holiness, and separation from theological error.
- The Brocks chose the name Life Point Baptist Church and the theme verse of John 10:10. The thinking behind the name is explained in the following statement from an early brochure, "As people search for meaning to their lives, they will commonly ask, 'What's the **point** of **life**; is this all there is?' We believe it is our responsibility to **point** them to Christ, because he is the **point** of **life**. All this can be summed up in our purpose: Pointing the way to new life in Christ and abundant life through Christ."

C. Getting Started

- The Brocks moved to Apple Valley in the fall of 2004, and immediately began organizing the details necessary to launch a church.
 - In February 2005, Dave and Claudia Barba, who have a full-time ministry of supporting church plants, came to Apple Valley to assist in the preparations. Among other things, the Barbas led the “phone’s for you” program. The Brocks, Barbas, friends, and supporting churches made approximately 30,000 phone calls in order to spread the word about the coming launch.
 - Life Point held its service on Sunday, April 10, 2005, at the Willow Park High School, 21950 Nisqually Road. 134 people attended that first service including many people who first heard about the church through the “phone’s for you” program.
 - On November 13, 2005, Life Point officially chartered as a local church with 50 people signing the charter.
- D. Beginning to Grow: God blessed and the church continued to grow until it became necessary to move to a different location. On July 27, 2008, Life Point held its first services at the Apple Valley Inn.
- E. New Building
- In 2008, the church purchased our current property and began planning to build.
 - On January 6, 2013, Life Point broke ground on our building, and on June 2, 2013, Life Point held its first service in the new building.
- F. Leadership Transition
- On August 3, 2014, Kristopher Schaal was installed as Life Point’s first full-time assistant pastor. Pastor Kris grew up in a pastor’s home in Phoenix, AZ. He received a B.A. from Bob Jones University, in Greenville, SC, and a M.Div., from International Baptist College and Seminary in Chandler, AZ.
 - On September 7, 2014 Bryan Brock announced his resignation as Life Point’s senior pastor.
 - On April 19, 2015, Kit Johnson accepted the call to become Life Point’s senior pastor, and he began in that role on June 14, 2015. Pastor Kit grew up in Altona, IL. He received a B.A. from Northland Baptist Bible College in Dunbar, WI, and a M.Div., and Th.M., from Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary in Allen Park, MI. Before coming to Life Point, Pastor Kit served for nine years on the pastoral staff of Inter-City Baptist Church in Allen Park, MI.

II. The Mission of Life Point

- A. Mission Statement: Life Point Baptist Church exists to glorify God by pointing unbelievers to new life in Christ and by leading believers into a fuller life through Christ.
- B. Our Ultimate Purpose: Glorify God

1. Glorifying God requires that we intentionally direct glory to God in how we depend on the Lord and minister to others (2 Cor 4:7–12). We desire to be a God-centered church.
 - When people look at our methods of ministry and the people of our church, we want them to see a church that prays, studies the Scriptures, worships, and serves others out of a passionate love for God and confidence in his ability to change lives.
 2. Glorifying God requires that we represent him accurately by obeying his will (1 Sam 15:22–23).
 - We are committed to being fully biblical in our methods of ministry no matter what the world may think and no matter how it may cost us.
 - We reject any methods of ministry that prioritize influence or growth at the expense of obedience.
- C. Our Evangelistic Purpose
- We are committed to aggressively pursuing our community with the gospel (1 Cor 9:16, 19–23).
 - The focus of our evangelistic efforts will be to support our members in cultivating redemptive relationships with unbelievers in their normal sphere of influence. This is typically called relational evangelism.
 - We want maintain an evangelistic focus in all of our regular services. We are also committed to providing various programs that will advance gospel in our community and support our church members in their evangelistic efforts.
- D. Our Discipleship Purpose
- The center of the Great Commission is the command to make disciples; therefore the church’s work has only begun when someone converts to Christ (Matt 28:19–20).
 - We are committed to building mature disciples who love and obey God, love and serve their fellow-man, and reproduce themselves through evangelism and discipleship.
- E. Our Acts 1:8 Purpose: We are committed to partnering with missionaries and church planters in order to see disciple-making churches established throughout Southern California, the USA, and the entire world (Matt 28:19–20; Acts 1:8).

III. The Values of Life Point

- A. Word-Centered Ministry: We will make theologically rich Bible preaching and teaching the foundation of our ministry and the dominant feature of our regular services.
- The Holy Spirit works primarily through the Bible to save the lost and produce spiritual growth (Rom 10:14–17; John 17:17).
- B. Grace-Centered Holiness: We will emphasize God’s call for Christians to resist worldliness and to live holy lives in conformity to Christ. Genuine holiness that

begins in the heart and transforms all of life is only possible by God's grace; therefore, we will emphasize the centrality of the gospel to Christian living.

- The Bible commands Christians must resist worldliness and live holy lives (1 Pet 1:13–16).
 - Genuine holiness is only possible through the power of the gospel and God's continuing work of grace in his people (1 Cor 15:10; 2 Cor 3:18; 4:6), but it also requires discipline and endurance (Phil 3:14; Heb 12:1).
- C. Grace-Centered Unity: We will pursue a God-centered unity that clearly distinguishes us as disciples of Christ. We will build a culture where we are pushing other toward holiness and discernment (Rom 12:2; 1 Cor 9:19–23; Eph 5:10) while also extending grace for disagreement in areas that are not essential to the unity of the church (Rom 15:1–7).
- D. People-Centered Ministry and Fellowship: We will encourage every member to use his or her spiritual gift(s) to invest in the growth of the church. We will encourage every member to cultivate meaningful relationships in body by which they will give and receive spiritual investment and care.
- We believe that Spirit-filled Christians—not programs, events, or elite ministers—make the church effective.
 - The pastor's duty is not to do all of the work of the ministry; instead, he is to equip church members to minister to each other (Eph 4:11–13). We want to be a church where every member is involved in the ministry.
 - Being involved in the ministry means more than owning a ministry title. We want to build a culture where we are engaged in each other's lives through meaningful fellowship and where we are supporting each other through the process of spiritual growth and the burdens of life (Gal 6:1–2).