


2010



**Choosing
an
Adult
Sunday
School
Class**

*Your Guide to First Baptist's
Sunday morning Bible study classes for Adults*

This booklet lists and describes the Adult Bible Study classes in the Sunday School Ministry of First Baptist Church, Tuscaloosa, AL. Classes are generally “classified” by age, gender, marital status, and/or “stage of life,” and they vary in size, teaching style, and demographics. People are encouraged to visit various classes, until they find one right for them.

About Sunday School...

Sunday School...

the foundational strategy in our church for leading people to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and building Great Commission Christians through open Bible study groups that engage people in evangelism, discipleship, ministry, fellowship, and worship.

Time: 9:45 a.m. each Sunday

Sunday School Directors: Jimmy Duren and Jerry Lake

Message from Minister to Adults...

A few years ago we were encouraged to ask ourselves the question, “What Would Jesus Do?” We have also been encouraged to “think like Jesus.” Whether it is WWJD or “thinking like Jesus,” it comes down to us having a biblical world-view. However, we can not have a biblical world-view unless we know what God’s Word, the Bible, teaches. Our Sunday School Ministry provides a wonderful opportunity for adults to learn more about God’s teachings and promises.

Our Adult Sunday School Ministry, however, is more than just studying the Bible. It provides the avenue for building relationships and the opportunities for meeting needs. We know that people are not only looking for a “friendly” church, people are looking for friends!

Joe Armour

Minister to Adults and Outreach

Please join us at First Baptist Church to study God’s Word and to find and be friends!

Adult 1 (20's-30's)

Young Couples (20's)

Directors: Paul and Melissa Bentley
Leaders: Brian and Mary Jane Turner, John and Tyler Savage, Steve and Andrea Edmonds

Room 311, Children's Center

This newly formed young adult group (started September 2009) targets young couples (engaged, newly married, not-so-newly-married) in their 20's. The desire is to provide an exciting place for these young adults to experience Sunday School with their peers and to provide Biblical wisdom and insights for these young adults as they begin their lives together as married couples.

Young Married (late 20's-mid 30's)

Teacher: Matt Glover
Room 311B, Children's Center

This friendly class is composed of young married couples in their late 20's-mid 30's; many of the members have small children. The purpose of the class is to develop strong Christian marriages and families. Monthly socials play an important role in members growing closer as a class. Matt's teaching style includes both lecture and discussion. Matt and his wife, Hollie, are natives of West Virginia and have been members of First Baptist Church since March 2002. They have two young sons, Chase and Cole. Matt attended law school at the University of Alabama and now works as an attorney in Tuscaloosa.

Young Single Adults (early 20's-mid 30's)

Teacher: Bill Keith
Room 308, Children's Center

This class consists of young single adults (mostly never-married) who are faithful in their attendance and Bible study. Many participate in outside activities such as the single adult Bible study each Thursday evening. Bill and Paige Yeager, a married couple who met in the Single Adult Ministry of First Baptist Church, serve as class coordinators. Bill, an accountant, and Paige, a graduate student at UA, feel that God has called them to continue to serve in this ministry. The Sunday School class is taught by Bill Keith, a single adult himself. Bill is general manager of the local branch of an industrial supply company. Bill is an avid Alabama football fan (rarely misses a game, even the away games). He is also passionate about skydiving!



Adult 2 (30's-40's)

Young Married (early 30's-early 40's)

Teacher: Dr. Robert Bentley

Room 303, Children's Center

This is a growing, dynamic, active class designed for parents of young children. Studying in detail the various books of the Bible or the lives of biblical characters, this class is taught by Dr. Robert Bentley, a retired dermatologist. Robert, who has taught Sunday School for over 30 years, is an active member and deacon at First Baptist. He and his wife, Dianne, who works in the preschool ministry, have four grown sons and five granddaughters. Robert has served two terms in the Alabama House of Representatives and is presenting running for the Republican nomination for Governor of Alabama. Robert uses lecture and discussion in teaching his class.

Coed (mid 30's-mid 40's)

Teachers: Eric Heinrich & Jon Mason

Room 309D, Children's Center

In its second year, this coed class of adults seeks intimate fellowship, encouraging support, and applicable Bible study. Curriculum used is *MasterWork*. Primarily consisting of married adults with children ages preschool to middle school, this class welcomes adults who would like to be a part of this growing, close-knit class. Eric, a small business owner, is married to Janelle. They have a daughter, Hannah. Jon and his wife, Rebekah, have a marketing/design company and are the parents of three small children, Mo, Lily and Della.

Coed (early 30's-mid 40's)

Teacher: Lanier Jones

Room 309B&C, Children's Center

In its fifth year, this class is primarily married adults in their 30's-40's with children in ages from preschool to high school. This class strives to offer an inviting and loving atmosphere for Bible study that provides family fellowship and support for brothers and sisters in Christ. Discussion is used with the curriculum, *MasterWork*. Lanier Jones, a manager in engineering with AT&T, leads the class. He is married to Tammy who works in the physical therapy field. They have two daughters - Alex and Addison. Both Lanier and Tammy are involved in the First Baptist music ministry. Class coordinator is Rachel Bryant, a teacher in the Tuscaloosa City School System.

Coed (mid 30's-early 50's)

Teacher: Calvin Cassady

Room 310, Children's Center

The goal of this class is to reach all people, grow them in Christ and minister to them. Members of the class have children of all ages in school and can relate to issues surrounding raising children. Their intent is to build leaders and warriors for Christ. "Life Truths" from the *Bible Studies for Life* curriculum from LifeWay is used in an interactive discussion/lecture format. Calvin is a Civil Engineer that owns an engineering company in Tuscaloosa providing engineering services to rural towns in Alabama. Calvin is married to Kathy, and they have two daughters - Mary Kathryn and Laura Elizabeth. Calvin's passion is to grow disciples of Christ and raise up new teachers and leaders in the church. Randy Allen serves as the class coordinator.

Adult 2 (30's-40's)

Coed (mid 30's-mid 50's)

Teacher: Brad Stuart

Room 313, Children's Center

This is a large class of adults primarily in their 40's-early 50's who enjoy fellowship, ministering to one another, and good teaching. Brad and his wife, Denise, have four children – Stephen, Kaitlyn, Sarah and Kyle. Brad, a district sales manager, is a former baseball pitcher in college and the minor leagues. Brad has been teaching this class since Spring 2008. Curriculum used is LifeWay's *MasterWork*. Class coordinators are Danny and Mitzi Lee.

Parents of Students (grades 6-12)

Teacher: Larry Williams

Middle School Room, Student Building

This is a new "stage of life" class for parents of students in our Student (Youth) Ministry. These parents study various topics concerning the Christian family, especially the topic of parenting students. This fall they are studying *Parenting by the Book: Biblical Wisdom for Raising Your Child*.

Coed (early 30's-40's)

Teacher: David Wray

Room 232, Multi-Purpose Center

Made up of mostly professionals (teachers, engineers, bankers, accountants and college faculty) in their 30's-40's, this is a close group that ministers to each other in times of victories and tragedies – births, deaths, achievements, and needs. Using primarily lecture with some discussion, David teaches the Bible surveying a book at a time. David, the son of a pastor, has been teaching for over 20 years. He is a graduate of Samford University with a degree in history. David, an avid sports fan, works at the Alabama One Credit Union. His wife, Melanna, who David met at

Adult 3 (40's-50's)

First Baptist Church, is a physical education teacher and softball coach at Brookwood Middle School. David and Melanna have three dogs – Daisy, Skipper and Brookie.

Coed (mid 40's-late 50's)

Teacher: David Carroll

Room 231, Multi-Purpose Building

This coed class primarily consists of married adults approaching the empty nest syndrome. Their children are in high school or college and their parents are aging. It is a group that enjoys Bible study and good fellowship while ministering to one another. The Bible is studied using the *Bible Studies for Life* curriculum. The primary teacher is David Carroll, an attorney with Hunt Refining Company. David and his wife, Linda, have three grown children. Assisting David in teaching is Chuck Malone.

Coed (mid 40's-late 50's)

Teacher: Rick Gibson

Room 229, Multi-Purpose Building

While the class is mostly a couples class, it also includes and welcomes single adults into its fellowship. It is their desire to care for each other. The *Bible Studies for Life* curriculum is used, as God's Word is openly discussed and applied to their everyday lives. Most of the class members have teenagers and/or college-aged children. Some are going through the empty nest syndrome and dealing with aging parents. This is a very diverse group - maritally, socio-economically, and in age. Rick, a CPA, is a lifelong Baptist who has taught for many years. His wife, Linda, works part-time at a local gift shop. They have three children in college at UA: Grant, Natalie and Olivia.

Adult 3 (40's-50's)

Coed (40's-mid 50's)

Teacher: Joey Falgout

Room 233, Multi-Purpose Building

A close-knit class that appreciates solid Bible teaching/application and warm fellowship, this class is composed primarily of parents who have children in high school and/or college. Dr. Falgout, a general surgeon, has taught Sunday School for over 18 years. Hobbies include travel, golf, snow skiing, and following University of Alabama athletics. Joey and his wife, Sherry, have a married daughter, Heather, and a son, Ryan, who plays golf for Birmingham Southern College.

Adult 4 (40's-50's)

Ladies (mid 30's-early 60's)

Teachers: Becky Brown/Lyn Holt

Room 335, Multi-Purpose Building

This class is made up of a wide variety of women – from all walks (and stages) of life and a wide range of ages. It has been said that they are either “laughing or crying” as they study God’s Word together. Bible curriculum used is *Explore the Bible*, which is a systematic study through the Bible. Outside the classroom activities include class socials and purposely planned mission activities. This special class of women affectionately call themselves “the Ford Clinic, which they will continue to go by in honor of Robin Ford, the founder of the class, and because they just have so much fun with it.” Becky is the Principal at University Place Middle School. She has been in education for 18 years and loves her students and the opportunity to serve them. Becky has led Wednesday night Bible Studies for several years and began the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Becky and her husband, Wayne, have one son, Beau and one daughter, Anna Nakole, who has been with

Adult 4 (40's-50's)

the Lord since the age of six. Lyn is a kindergarten teacher at Southview Elementary School. She and her husband, Greg, have two college age children - son, Bradley, and daughter, Rachel. Lyn is the daughter of Associate Pastor Emeritus Carl Wells.

Coed (30's-early 60's)

Teacher: Andrew Bryant

Room 332, Multi-Purpose Building

This diverse class reaches, teaches, and ministers to people of all ages and stages of life. Through creative Bible study lessons class members are encouraged, challenged, and equipped. For true spiritual growth and maturity class members are encouraged to follow the “three-legged milk stool” principle: three daily disciplines – prayer, studying God’s Word, and meditation. Andrew and his wife, Greta, have three sons – Joseph, Ben and Daniel. Besides his passion for studying the Bible and teaching, Andrew, along with his wife, sings in the adult worship choir. Andrew is an electrical engineer, while Greta is a homemaker.

Coed (all ages)

Teacher: Kaye Sutton

Room 326, Multi-Purpose Building

Known as the Choir Class, this class is a mixture of single adults and married couples primarily involved or related to those involved in the music ministry – choir, orchestra, etc. However, this class is not limited to those involved in the music ministry, but is designed to accommodate those who need to come and go as needed due to their music ministry involvement. Consequently, it is a diverse group of all ages. Kaye is an MK (missionary kid); her parents were missionaries in Central and South America. Of course, she sings in the adult worship choir. She has worked in public health for 20 years and considers that area her “mission field.”

Adult 5 (50's-60's)

Coed (50's)

Teacher: Larry Osborn

**Room S105A&B/Conference Room
(under the Sanctuary)**

This class studies the *Bible Studies for Life* curriculum each week with lecture being the format. This class is a close-knit, caring group, sharing experiences with all class members. Regular socials are part of this class's growth as friends. New members are welcome and will enjoy being around a fun group while studying the Bible. Larry works at INTEVA Products, which supplies parts for the local Mercedes plant. Larry and his wife, Candy, have one married son, Patton, and a daughter, Anabeth, a college student at UA. His hobbies include running and working in the yard.

Coed (early 50's-mid 60's)

Teacher: John Hogue

Room 217, Children's Center

This warm, close-knit class consists primarily of married couples and single adults who are professionals and who enjoy monthly fellowships that reach outside of Sunday mornings to connect with and support each other. The teaching is divided between lecture and discussion using the *Bible Studies for Life* curriculum from LifeWay. A native of Tuscaloosa, John has been a member of First Baptist Church for over 35 years, has taught Sunday School for over 20 years, and has recently served as Chairman of Deacons. John has worked in sales at Phifer Incorporated for 37 years. Married for 40 years, John and his wife, Peggy, have two children and four grandchildren.

Coed (mid 50's-early 70's)

Teacher: William Guerard

Room 334, Multi-Purpose Building

A close-knit group, this class enjoys great fellowship, ministering to one another, and solid Bible study. *Bible Studies for Life* curriculum is taught using a discussion with lecture format. New members are warmly received. William and his wife, Anita, have two children and four grandchildren. William has taught this class since 1984 and also serves as a deacon. Working at Alabama Power Company during the week, William enjoys golf, tennis, horses, hunting, fishing and travel during his spare time.



Coed (50's-60's)

Teacher: Dr. R.L. Guffin

Room S104B (under the Sanctuary)

This loving class consists mostly of professionals. Their purpose in Sunday School is spiritual growth, warm fellowship, and ministering to members plus selected families with special needs. Teaching style is primarily discussion while using the *Bible Studies for Life* curriculum from LifeWay. Dr. Guffin, a Humanities Professor at Stillman College for over 40 years, has taught this class since its inception over 6 years ago. R.L., a widower (his wife, Mary, died in October 2007), has three children and two grandchildren. R.L. also serves as a deacon and sings in the Worship Choir. His major interests are church history, Bible study, American History, reading, family history and sports.

Adult 6 (50's-60's)

Ladies (mid 40's-early 60's)

Teacher: Margaret Jones

Room 228, Multi-Purpose Building

Women in this class are married, single-again (divorced/widowed) or never married. This class is a safe place to come and be supported in sorrow and in joy; these ladies are praying ladies who truly care about each other. Announcements and prayer requests are followed by Bible study. LifeWay's *MasterWork* curriculum is used with a combination of lecture and discussion format. The class participates in several ministry projects each year and has a variety of social gatherings outside of class. Margaret and her husband, Calvin, have been married for over 45 years. They have three children and four grandchildren. A homemaker, Margaret enjoys cooking, reading, traveling, and crossword and jigsaw puzzles.

Ladies (early 40's & up)

Teacher: Celeste Wells

Room 324, Multi-Purpose Building

This new ladies class led by Celeste Wells started September 2009. Many of the ladies in this class were in a wonderful coed Sunday School class, but wanted a class "just for women." This class uses LifeWay's *Explore the Bible* curriculum for in-depth study. Celeste, a Tuscaloosa native, is an experienced and passionate Bible teacher and elementary school teacher. She teaches second grade at Skyland Elementary where she has taught over 20 years. Her husband, Steve, and she have two daughters – Lauren and Caroline. Sammie Barstow is serving as class coordinator.

Men (50's-60's)

Teacher: Pleas Davis

Room 242, Multi-Purpose Building

This class consists of men in all walks of life: military, retirees, judge, engineer, blue-collar workers, college professors, businessmen, preacher and internationals. Each Sunday they gather to study the Bible using LifeWay's *Explore the Bible* curriculum. Basically a discussion class, these men desire to learn how to lead a Godly life and be "real men" for Jesus. Pleas is retired military (Marines) and currently is working in human resources. A native of Tuscaloosa, Pleas and his wife, Judy, have two children and four grandchildren. Pleas has been very involved in the Men's Ministry and Men's Work Days.

Coed (early 50's-mid 60's)

Teacher: Jerry Thomas

Room 238, Multi-Purpose Building

This class is composed mostly of couples who have college-age and/or grown children. Some class members are still active in their careers; some are retired. All enjoy the warm fellowship within this class and the wise, insightful Bible teaching of their teacher, Jerry Thomas. Believing that God's Word is the answer to all of life's problems, the class studies the Bible using the *Explore the Bible* curriculum from LifeWay. Besides being a dedicated teacher, Jerry has served as Chairman of Deacons and has participated in several mission trips. A pharmacist by profession, Jerry and his wife, Marianne, have five grown children – three daughters and twin boys – and eight grandchildren that includes two sets of twins.

Adult 7 (60's & up)

Ladies (mid 60's & up)

Teacher: Rosalind Holloman

Room 234, Multi-Purpose Building

Known as the JOY class (Jesus – 1st, Others – 2nd, Yourself 3rd), this is a diverse group of ladies. Besides being involved attending Sunday School and monthly fellowships, class members are active in various ministries within the church. Lecture with discussion is used to study God's Word using the *Explore the Bible* curriculum. Rosalind is a retired educator and the mother of four sons. She has been widowed twice; she is now married to Jim. Together they have been very involved in ministry work in Ukraine. Rosalind loves teaching! She currently facilitates Wednesday morning Bible Studies with the First Ladies Ministry and also leads a mid-week Bible study at Robertson Towers. She recently completed the training for the chaplaincy program in Disaster Relief. Jim and Rosalind have 13 grandchildren who are the lights of their lives.

Men (early 60's-mid 70's)

Teacher: Milton Marcum

Room 239, Multi-Purpose Building

This class of men studies the Bible using LifeWay's *Explore the Bible* curriculum. Solid Bible study, open discussion of the Scriptures, and sharing of pertinent life experiences are important elements of this men's class each week. Milton and his wife, Betty, have been married 45 years and have two grown children and seven grandchildren. Milton has worked at Alabama Power for over 40 years. Betty is an excellent Bible teacher herself, having led a ladies class for over 25 years.

Ladies (early 60's & up)

Teacher: Lori Barstow

Parlor

This warm, loving class of ladies is bonded together by their love of the Lord and His Word. They meet every Sunday morning to study the Bible, using the *Explore the Bible* curriculum, and to encourage each other to live out their faith every day. Besides being students of the Bible, they minister to each other and enjoy warm fellowship. Lori, a single adult, is an academic advisor/coordinator in the College of Commerce and Business Administration at the University of Alabama. She has authored a 12-week devotional book and journal for young women starting college entitled *Precious Stones and Alabaster*. It was recently featured as "Book of the Month" in the magazine *Living with Teenagers*.

Coed (late 50's & up)

Teacher: Ike Espy

Room 236, Multi-Purpose Building

Known as the Agape Class, this is a large, loving coed class. Each Sunday the Bible is studied using the *Explore the Bible* curriculum in a lecture format. Through in-house ministries and care groups, personal caring relationships are experienced during times of joy and celebrations and times of sorrow and concern. The class has ladies' activities, men's activities, and class-wide activities regularly. Ike Espy is a civil engineer and former land surveyor. Currently, he is a practicing attorney. Ike and his wife, Carol, have three children and eight grandchildren. The class "runs" very efficiently and effectively with Carol serving as the class coordinator.

Adult 7 (60's & up)

Coed (early 60's & up)

Teacher: Roy Howell

Chapel

The Chapel Class consists of mostly senior adults who are young-at-heart. Class members are diverse in their background and their experiences. Class members are active in the community as well in the various ministries of First Baptist Church. Regular fellowships are enjoyed by all. Located in the Chapel, this class is readily accessible by all. Curriculum used is LifeWay's *Bible Studies for Life*. Roy, a retired instructor at a local community college, is married to Margaret. They have three sons and three grandchildren. Roy loves sports of all kinds – football, baseball, basketball, etc.

Adult 8 (60's & up)

Ladies (mid 60's & up)

Teacher: Doris Novatnak

Room 222, Multi-Purpose Building

Ladies of this class, known as the Lydia Class, are mature Christians who take Bible study seriously; it is a friendly, loving and caring group who look after each other in the sorrows and joys of life and give loving support when needed. Fun times are also enjoyed; ladies are always invited to visit this class and experience learning, love and warm fellowship. Doris has been teaching Sunday School since 1952 and has always felt called of God to serve as a Sunday School teacher. Doris, a widow, has two daughters, three grandchildren and one great-grandchild. *Explore the Bible* curriculum is used with lecture and discussion format.

Coed (mid 60's & up)

Teacher: George Hodgson

Room 226, Multi-Purpose Building

Known as the Koinonia Class, this class consists of widowed ladies, couples, and men whose wives work in other areas of the church during Sunday School. The emphasis of the class is on reaching people, teaching our members and ministering to those in need. Discussion is encouraged as the Bible is studied using *Explore the Bible* curriculum. Fellowships are regularly scheduled. George and his wife, Susan, have three children and two grandchildren. George is a retired colonel from the U.S. Army and a retired public school teacher. Besides teaching, George serves as a Gideon, volunteers at DCH, our local hospital, participates in mission trips, teaches a Bible study at a local retirement center on Wednesday mornings, and serves as a deacon at First Baptist Church.

Coed (mid-60's & up)

Teacher: Dr. Hayse Boyd

Room 246, Multi-Purpose Building

The Good Samaritan Class consists primarily of married couples plus a few single adults. This class loves to study the Bible, minister to one another, and share fellowship. The class, organized into care groups, has a tremendous ministry of meeting needs within and outside the class. The Bible is taught using LifeWay's *Explore the Bible* curriculum in a lecture format. Dr. Boyd is a retired physician, longtime deacon and church leader. Each week he writes and publishes a Sunday School lesson that is used, not only in his class, but in the homebound ministry of First Baptist Church. He is an avid reader, enjoys yard work, and collects antique automobiles. He is also a writer with five books published. He and his wife, Peggy, have three children and four grandchildren.

Adult 8 (continued)

Ladies & Men (mid 60's-late 70's)

Teachers: Marianne Bryan/Wyatt Williams

Room 244, Multi-Purpose Building

This class is really the combination of two classes – one ladies and one men. They combine each week with Marianne and Wyatt alternating teaching with Stanley Park serving as director. This class studies *Explore the Bible* curriculum with a lecture format, but participation is encouraged. This class is composed of faithful ladies and men who are very active in Sunday School and other areas of leadership and ministries of First Baptist Church. Marianne, a widow, is the mother of 4 children and 6 grandchildren. A retired counselor from the public schools, Marianne now volunteers at Hospice of West Alabama and DCH Northport Hospital. Wyatt and his wife, Betty, have two daughters. Wyatt is a retired pharmacist who presently works a few hours each week as a pharmacist at the Good Samaritan Clinic. When not working, gardening and yard work are Wyatt's hobbies.

Men (70's & up)

Teacher: Jess Ellard

Room 224, Multi-Purpose Building

Members of this class of "much experienced and wise" men are active in attendance and enjoy fellowship with one another. The Bible is studied using LifeWay's *Bible Studies for Life* curriculum, a complete Bible study series, in a casual format where everyone can participate. A member of First Baptist Church since 1985, Jess has taught this class for four years. Jess is a geologist. He and his wife, Margo, have been married for 42 years.

Men (mid 70's & up)

Teacher: Dr. Bill Walker

Room 220, Multi-Purpose Building

This class is one of the oldest men's classes at First Baptist Church. The Bible is taught in a lecture format using LifeWay's *Explore the Bible* curriculum. With several members being shut-ins, ministering to one another is an important element of this class. Dr. Bill Walker, a retired professor of physics at the University of Alabama, has taught this class almost ten years. Dr. Walker enjoys computer, reading and yard work. Bill and his wife of 50 years, Annette, have three children and six grandchildren – all of whom live in Tuscaloosa. Annette teaches in the Adult Special Education class.

Russell Adult Education

Director – Allene Russell

Special Education Room, FLC

Co-Director: Jan McQuaig

Teachers: Jacque Edwards, Becky Ingram, Jayse McQuaig, Larry Murphy, Mary Nelson, Becky Turner, Annette Walker, Eleanor Wells

Initially started as a special education Sunday School class for children years ago, this class has evolved into a class for special needs adults. Many of the members of this class come from group homes in our community. Allene Russell's husband, Dr. Tommy Russell, who died in 2001, was the founder and leader of this class. However, through the dedication and faithfulness of the people listed above, this special class continues today. Mrs. Russell is a retired preschool special education teacher. She has two children – a deceased son, Mark, and a married daughter, who has two children. Note: In addition to the teachers listed above, there are about 20 other volunteers who alternate serving during the 11:00 a.m. worship service each Sunday.



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