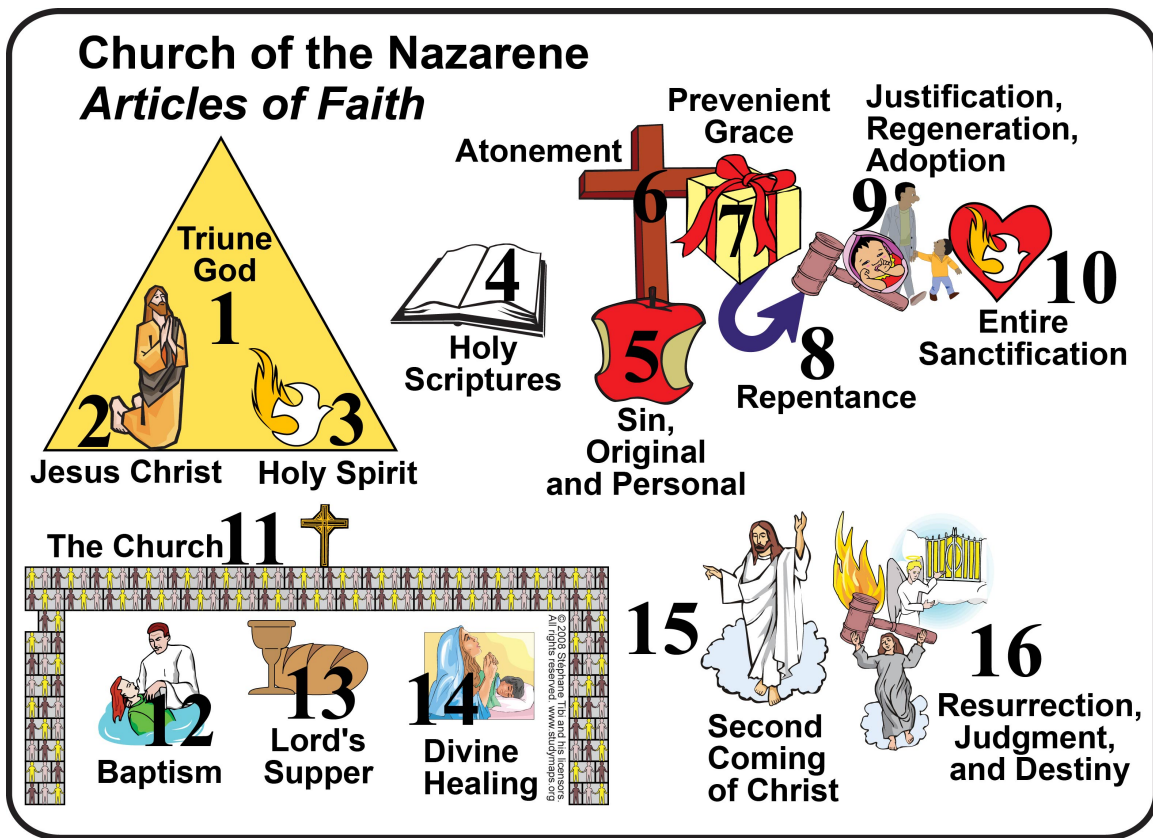


# TEACHING THE ARTICLES OF FAITH A CLEAR AND COHERENT THEOLOGY

## The 'Living Word' Approach A Visual Story Centered Model Maximized for Retention and Reproducibility

Rev. Ray Neu



**Intent:** To present a way that churches can easily instruct their members on the Articles of Faith in order to strengthen their practical understanding of what we believe and help their members be able to easily convey those same truths to others.

**Approach:** A combined use of collaborative discovery based learning through visual images and story.

**Background:** It is necessary to have at least a basic grasp of the principles of Story Centered Collaborative Learning in order to understand this material well. It is also necessary to understand that the presentation of this Teaching Guide is not intended to be used for lecture. Lecture is limited, uni-directional communication. Collaborative, discovery based discussion is the preferred model for this Teaching Guide. Thus, even

this guide is written in a more conversation manner, inviting the reader in as a participant. This is *best* when demonstrated and experienced, not read alone. This teaching Guide has been developed simply for the purposes of broader dissemination and as an aid for translation work.

**Materials Needed:**

- Articles of Faith StudyMaps
- Each story to be shared should be internalized by the Story Teller prior to presenting. Stories should be told quite accurately, yet also with zeal, as if reporting on an event that just happened. (All of this is covered in the Tell THE Story training, which would be a highly recommended prerequisite for this material.)
- If – the group being taught is large enough, has easy access to and the ability to reproduce the use of a projector, the Teaching Facilitator could use one, for presentation purposes to enhance everyone’s ability to see. The primary purpose in doing so would be so that people are looking towards the front rather than down at papers they are holding, which inhibits free communication. If the individuals in the group would not likely be able to use a projector in their own settings, then we recommend not using one for the primary presentation either, as the principle of reproducibility can easily get lost through use of unattainable technology.

**Plan:** *Begin with* an investigative look into the visuals of the Articles of Faith StudyMap, suggesting that each image has been carefully chosen for what it communicates. Look at just one image at a time. This can be done through displaying an image of just one of the Articles at a time or by focusing their attention to just one of the smaller images at a time.

Ask the group what they notice about the image. For each observation that they make, ask what that may imply, suggest or might mean. For example, when looking at the image of Jesus, people often see that He is barefoot. When asked what this could mean, they will reply that, in Scripture, ‘barefoot’ is connected to being on holy ground. Others might say that it is a sign of being poor. Continue to probe for more and more observations until you feel that you have enough for that image, then move on to the next image and continue the process.

You may wish to have one person serve as a scribe writing down observations. This way, everything is captured while not distracting everyone with the burden of writing. If everyone is writing their own notes, it will hinder the visual observation process as well as greatly decrease the level of free communication.

Once each Article of Faith image has been examined for what it seems to be indicating, time should be taken to review the entire list. For this part of the learning exercise, you are embedding into their minds particular observations discovered visually, which helps make them very memorable.

*The next step* in this process is to reinforce the visual learning with broader story based learning. This is not the same as individual verse 'proof texting.' While effective for certain types of learners, lists of individual verses do not stick in the memory very well. Complete stories are much more memorable, serving as adequate 'handles' for the memory. Some of the advantages to this are:

- The story itself is easier to remember
- The story contains all the truths you wish to discover
- Even without taking written notes, once recalling the story, it is easy to re-discover the truths found earlier
- When reinforced with the visual images, the truths are compounded in their meaning and in one's memory.

An important distinction in this use of story learning is that it is *not* full discovery as a normal story session would be. Rather, this is 'targeted' discovery, as each story is being viewed for what it can teach us about a particular Article of Faith as its topic. The facilitator needs to know this and guide the discussion in such a way that these goals are accomplished.

For example, during a discussion from Genesis 1, the goal is to learn what this story teaches about the Triune God. If someone were to make an observation that they think is interesting that people were to 'eat plants and fruits with seed', the facilitator could guide that discussion this way, "That is interesting, but let's recall that our purpose for this session is to see what this story teaches us about the Triune God. What else might you see in the story that helps us understand God in this way?"

Again, for the purpose of capturing truths while keeping everyone else free to participate in the discovery process, it could be helpful to have one person serve as a recorder or scribe taking notes on behalf of the group. The notes should be brief, outline or bullet point style notes, not actually capturing every full observation that is made.

After the discussion seems to have run through the full story, a review of the findings should be made. At this point, it is an open review and challenge to see if each item listed is really in the story and is clearly seen. If observations seem to be a 'stretch' or based upon 'outside information' or conjecture, or are built on a pyramid of information from other stories, then those observations should be set aside for the time. There will be plenty of sound observations, discovered from each individual story that together will build a strong theology for each Article of Faith. The reason for this is the underlying foundation principle of reproducibility. In order to sustain an easily reproducible teaching methodology, each observation must be clearly linked to just one story.

When each observation or discovery has been clearly identified as being connected to a single story, then a larger base can be built, that will link these observations in ways that will also be memorable and thus reproducible. The memory techniques used need to be consistent with the primary learning style being emphasized.

For example, lists of individual Scripture texts chosen to support a particular item of doctrine are seemingly disconnected to non-literate, linear, kinetic learners or those who are simply less conceptual in their thinking. However, if those same texts are found within contexts that are more recognizable; i.e. stories, then these learners have a better 'handle' by which to recall the basis for the truths.

When intentional visuals are added to those stories, the learning and therefore memory capacity increase greatly. The greater intentionality of the visuals to connect key truths, the greater the capacity to understand, recall and use in teaching others. Using these steps will ensure greater retention and reproducibility.

Sample Lesson:

Facilitator: Let's take a look at the first Article of Faith, which is what? (wait for an answer)...

The TRIUNE GOD

We want to begin by just looking at the image for the Triune God as shown on our Articles of Faith StudyMap. These images have been carefully and intentionally created to suggest various points or ideas to us. As you look at the words, "Triune God" in our image, what ideas does this suggest to you?

(Note: for visual, non literate learners this is a problem, using words only. To improve upon this, an additional image should be added.)

Some typical observations are:

- 'There is not a picture of what God looks like.'
- 'The Triune God is at the top of the triangle.'
- 'The Triune God is Number 1!'
- 'Triune suggests three in one.'
- 'This is the very beginning of everything else.'
- 'The Triune God is the starting place for all the articles.'
- 'As the 'beginning', everything else flows from the Triune God.'
- 'The 'Triune God' is connected to Jesus and the Holy Spirit.'
- 'The Triune God is contained within but not apart from the others.'



Affirm each observation, repeating it so that all hear what has been shared. Repetition not only affirms the person sharing but reinforces the listeners. Have the scribe record each observation on behalf of the group. Review the entire list once observations have been completed. If some observations are very general and do not seem to be discoveries based on the topic of the Triune God, then ask follow up questions, such as 'How does that help us learn more about the Triune God?' or 'What is it that we learn then about Who God is based on what you just shared?'

With these thoughts already embedded in the minds of the participants, next inform them that we will now examine some Bible stories, to see how we may confirm these observations and what else may be learned.

TELL the Creation Story from Genesis 1:1-2:3. Instruct everyone to listen carefully, so they can tell their neighbor the same story once you have finished! (You may choose to break this story in shorter sections and only tell one portion at a time, to aid in the retelling. This can easily be divided and told in terms of each day of Creation.) Have the listeners tell each other in pairs, whatever they can remember.

Tell the story again a third time, but with intentional, well chosen obvious 'mistakes.' The listeners should be instructed before this telling of the story that they are to correct each mistake they hear. If chosen well, this helps to lodge key elements of the story into the minds of the listeners. This is also a fun way to 'level out' the playing field, by making the Story Teller / Facilitator seem more approachable.

When ready to initiate discovery-based discussion, remind them that this exercise is not about finding any and all observations but intended to only see what can be learned from this story, about the Triune God.

Ask questions that direct their thinking along this manner:

- 'What do you see in this story that tells us something about the Triune God?'
- 'What do you hear God saying? What does that tell us about him?'
- 'What else do you see in this story that specifically informs us as to the nature

of the Triune God?

- What aspects or characteristics of God do we find in this story?
- 'etc.'

Have the chosen scribe continue to take notes for the group. Note that, especially for the first three Articles, there will be both overlap and a consecutive 'building upon' of observations, from the Triune God, to Jesus Christ, to the Holy Spirit. This is not only okay, it is intentional because of the nature of the Triune God. Each observation that appears to overlap between the first 3 articles will later be understood to reinforce our beliefs.

Some of the typical truths found in this story include:

- God existed before anything else.
- God created all that does exist.
- God is not limited by physical confines or by what we know of nature.
- God's very words create physical matter.
- God works in stages.
- God provided all that was needed for each of His creations. (light, food, etc.)
- God spoke and others listened, even natural elements.
- God is revealed as plural in this story.
- God did not specifically address the 'others' to help in creation until He decided to make man...
- God had a purpose for everything that He created.
- Everything God created was good!
- God rests...(so God gets tired...?)

Notice that these observations are all about God and not about all of the other things going on in this story.

Use the same approach for each story listed for each Article of Faith. Compile those discoveries and observations. Add these to the discoveries and observations from the visual images and you will find that your group has created quite an impressive theological understanding of our basic beliefs and likely had fun doing so!

a) Genesis 1:1-2:3

b) John 14:1-26

c) Mark 1:9-11

## **2 JESUS CHRIST**

Let's take a look at the second Article of Faith, which is what? ... JESUS CHRIST

We want to continue by just looking at the image for Jesus Christ as shown on our Articles of Faith StudyMap. Remember, these images have been carefully and intentionally created to suggest various ideas and points to us. As you look at the image selected for Jesus Christ in our drawing, what ideas does this suggest to you?

Some typical observations are:

- 1 Jesus is dressed rather plainly, like a common man
- 2 He is kneeling
- 3 He is praying
- 4 He is looking up to the Triune God
- 5 Jesus is barefoot
- 6 Jesus is contained within the same space as the Triune God and the Holy Spirit
- 7 Jesus is number 2 of 3
- 8 Jesus is connected to the Triune God and to the Holy Spirit

When asked what these observations reveal to us, the following are often stated:

- 1 that Jesus is a 'common' man
- 2 servants kneel, praying people kneel...
- 3 prayer shows a dependency on the Triune God
- 3 even Jesus needs God
- 4 Jesus depends or relies on the Triune God, or Father
- 5 in Scripture, being barefoot can be a sign of holiness
- 5 it could also mean poor
- 6 Jesus is the same as the Triune God,
- 6 Jesus works within the same purpose and reasons as the Triune God
- 6 Jesus is God
- 7 just as creation came in stages, so have the 3 parts of the Triune God
- 8 these 3 share a relationship



Use the same approach as above for each story listed for each Article of Faith. Have the recorder or scribe compile those discoveries and observations. Be sure to TELL each story, taking time for the participants to repeat to each other and for you to tell the story a third time with intentional mistakes. Shortening this process or shifting to reading the stories, creates an entirely new paradigm of learning and actually removes or at least, greatly reduces the group collaboration and discovery. The joy of discovery is paramount to the success of this process.

a) John 1:1-14

b) Philippians 2:5-11

c) Matthew 28:1-10

d) John 3:1-21

After completing each story, take time to review the overall list compiled by the scribe. Take note if there seem to be any observations that may not be clear. If possible, try to determine if these were suggestions from outside of the stories or the visuals. The purpose in doing so would be to measure the effectiveness of this learning model.

### **3 HOLY SPIRIT**

Next, let's take a look at the second Article of Faith, which is the what? ... HOLY SPIRIT We want to continue by just looking at the image for Holy Spirit as shown on our Articles of Faith StudyMap. Remember, these images have been carefully and intentionally created to suggest various ideas and points to us. As you look at the image selected for Holy Spirit in our drawing, what ideas does this suggest to you?

Some typical observations are:

- 1 The Spirit is a dove
- 2 The dove is white
- 3 The dove is flying
- 4 The Spirit is also seen as fire
- 5 The Holy Spirit is contained in the same space as the Triune God and Jesus Christ
- 6 The Spirit is the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the 3 parts of the Triune God
- 7 The Spirit also comes in order and for a purpose

When asked what these observations reveal to us, the following are often stated:

- 1 The Spirit took the form of a dove at Jesus' baptism, so it helps us recognize him, although he is not a dove per se.
- 2 The dove is an innocent animal
- 2 white is a color of purity, holiness
- 2 the dove was used in sacrifices before God, an acceptable sacrifice



- 3 this indicates that the Holy Spirit is active in our lives
- 4 fire is purifying, consuming, destroying, active, (holy)
- 5 the Holy Spirit is the same essence, and purpose as the other parts of the Triune God
- 6 The Holy Spirit IS part of the Triune God, (Trinity)
- 7 being third is not less important, just the order in which the Spirit appeared



Use the same approach as above for each story listed for each Article of Faith. Have the recorder or scribe compile those discoveries and observations. Be sure to TELL each story, taking time for the participants to repeat to each other and for you to tell the story a third time with intentional mistakes. Shortening this process or shifting to reading the stories, creates an entirely new paradigm of learning and actually hinders the group collaboration and discovery. As a reminder, don't slip into lecturing or 'teaching' as this steals the joy of discovery!

a) John 14:1-26

b) John 16:5-15

c) Romans 8:1-27

d) Acts 2:1-8

After completing each story, take time to review the overall list compiled by the scribe. Take note of repeated ideas and points that overlapped between the 3 Articles of Faith that together express our beliefs about the Triune God.



## 4 Holy Scriptures

Let's take a look at the fourth Article of Faith, which is what? ... HOLY SCRIPTURES  
Let's look at the image for Holy Scriptures as shown on our Articles of Faith StudyMap.  
Remember, these images have been carefully and intentionally created to suggest various points to us. As you look at the image selected for the Holy Scriptures in our drawing, what ideas does this suggest to you? What's the very first thing you notice?

Some typical observations are:

- 1 It is all by itself, not with any other pictures.
- 2 It is alone.
- 3 It is black and white, no color.
- 4 The Bible is open.
- 5 In the overall StudyMap, it comes immediately after the Triune God.
- 6 It comes before the rest of the images / articles.

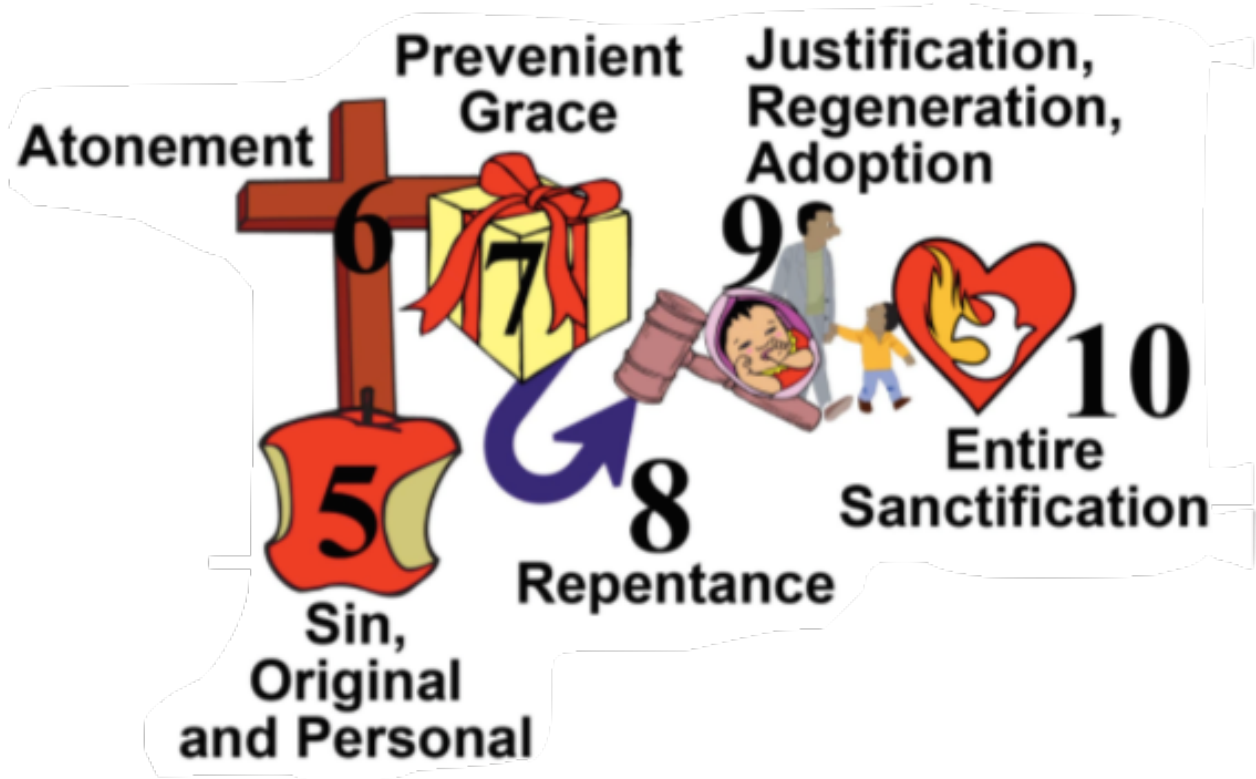
When asked what these observations reveal to us, the following are often stated:

- 1 That it is unique, there's no other book like it.
- 2 That the Bible stands alone. It doesn't need anything else to support it.
- 3 (In the U.S.) 'Black and white' refers to things that are clear, true, plain to see.
- 4 It is available for everyone. It's not hidden in mystery.
- 5 The Bible comes from the Triune God.
- 6 Everything else we need to know, the rest of our beliefs come from the Bible.

Use the same approach as above for each story listed for each Article of Faith. Have the recorder or scribe compile those discoveries and observations. Be sure to TELL each story, taking time for the participants to repeat to each other and for you to tell the story a third time with intentional mistakes. Be sure to reinforce the joy of discovery and group collaboration!

a) 2 Timothy 3:14-16

b) Hebrews 4:12-13



The next section of the Articles of Faith groups together a string of 6 very important concepts. We will look at these individually before considering the implications of how they work together. They are grouped in this way because of the interconnectedness of each step. One relies on the other. Each is a portion of the whole. Each article helps us understand the nature of spiritual life, conditions, changes and transformations.

Let's take a look at the first Article of Faith in this section, which is what? ...Sin, Original and Personal.

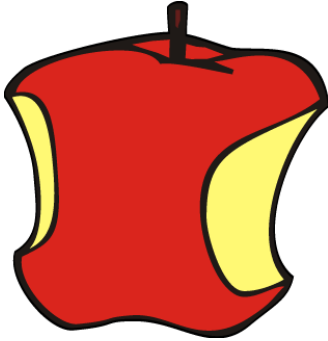
We want to begin by just looking at the image for Sin, Original and Personal as shown on our Articles of Faith StudyMap. These images have been carefully and intentionally created to suggest various points to us. As you look at the image for Sin, Original and Personal in our drawing, what ideas does this suggest to you?

Some typical observations are:

- 1 there are 2 bites out of the apple.
- 2 one bite is bigger than the other! ('the man's bite!' Is a common comment...)
- 3 the apple looks good!
- 4 taking a bite is a personal choice
- 5 you have to get personally involved to take a bite
- 6 the apple is at the foot of the cross

When asked what these observations reveal to us, the following are often stated:

- 1 this shows both the Original sin and our Personal sins
- 2 Adam took a bigger bite! (this is just for fun...)
- 3 Sin is attractive, enticing
- 4 Everyone chooses whether to sin or not
- 5 choice IS personal, each person gets involved
- 6 sin puts us at a place where we are in need



## **5 ORIGINAL SIN**

- a) Genesis 3:1-24
- b) 1 John 1:5-8

## **5 PERSONAL SIN**

- a) Genesis 4:1-16
- b) Psalm 51:1-17

Now, let's look at the second Article of Faith in this section, and the sixth overall, which is what? ...Atonement.

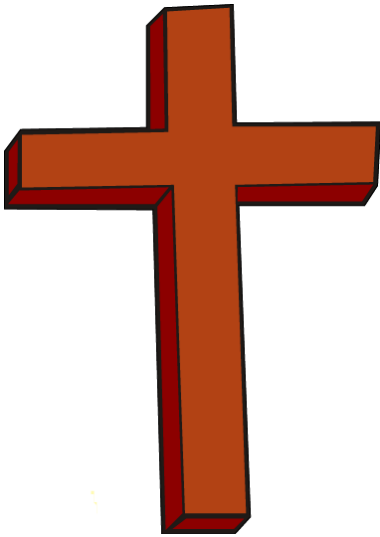
We want to begin by just looking at the image for Atonement as shown on our Articles of Faith StudyMap. These images have been carefully and intentionally created to suggest various points to us. As you look at the image for Atonement in our drawing, what ideas does this suggest to you?

Some typical observations are:

- 1 Atonement is a word we don't know
- 1 Atonement must mean the 'cross'...or Jesus dying on the cross?
- 2 the cross looks strong
- 3 the cross looks red
- 4 the cross is empty, Jesus is not on it
- 5 the cross comes after sin; before sin, it makes no sense
- 6 the cross is next in line, its necessary before the other steps

When asked what these observations reveal to us, the following are often stated:

- 1 Atonement is a theology word
- 1 the picture tells us it is about Jesus dying on the cross for our sins
- 2 this plan is strong enough to work for us
- 3 it's a sign of Jesus' blood shed for us, for our sins
- 3 sometimes people will refer to the payment for sins is blood
- 4 the payment has been made, Jesus does not stay on the cross
- 5 once we realize we are sinners, we find that we need what the cross offers
- 6 if we don't deal with the cross, then we can't make sense of what follows



## 6 ATONEMENT

Luke 23:32-47

The third step in this section along the way of salvation is the seventh Article of Faith, which is what? ...Prevenient Grace.

We want to begin by just looking at the image for Prevenient Grace as shown on our Articles of Faith StudyMap. These images have been carefully and intentionally created to suggest various points to us. As you look at the image for Prevenient Grace in our

drawing, what ideas does this suggest to you?

Some typical observations are:

- 1 it is a gift!
- 2 It's free
- 3 it's attractive
- 4 once we understand the cross, we get the gift
- 5 it makes you want to open it!
- 6 its big
- 7 somebody took time to prepare it

When asked what these observations reveal to us, the following are often stated:

- 1 people like gifts
- 2 the Bible says that salvation is free, we cannot pay for it
- 3 once understanding the problem of sin, then salvation is attractive
- 4 the gift becomes ours when we choose to receive it
- 5 the possibility of being forgiven is worth looking into
- 6 it's a really big deal in our lives, not just some small matter
- 7 that 'Somebody' must know what we need, care enough to provide it



## **7 PREVENIENT GRACE**

Romans 5:6 & Mark 2:1-12

The fourth step in this section along the way of salvation is the eighth Article of Faith, which is the what? ...Repentance.

Let's look at the image for Repentance as shown on our Articles of Faith StudyMap. These images have been carefully and intentionally created to suggest various points to

us. As you look at the image for Repentance in our drawing, what ideas does this suggest to you?

Some typical observations are:

- 1 its an arrow
- 2 its going one direction, then turning back
- 3 it goes in the opposite direction
- 4 at first, it is pointed right at the apple of sin
- 5 it suggests that change is possible
- 6 its purple
- 7 its running into a hammer

When asked what these observations reveal to us, the following are often stated:

- 1 arrows show the direction someone is heading
- 2 this indicates that change is happening
- 3 the change is a 180 degree reversal, from what was, to what can be
- 4 the direction before this change is headed right towards sin
- 5 people can choose to turn around, they don't have to go towards sin
- 6 purple is a royal color, this is a great choice! (fun)
- 7 the 'hammer' or gavel, is a judge's tool, so there is a judgment coming or a 'judge' makes a decision about us



## **8 REPENTANCE**

a) Romans 2:4 & Luke 19:1-10

b) 2 Kings 5:1-19

The next step in this section is the ninth Article of Faith, which is what? ...Justification, Regeneration and Adoption.

Let's look at the image for Justification, Regeneration and Adoption as shown on our Articles of Faith StudyMap. These images have been carefully and intentionally created to suggest various points to us. As you look at the image for Justification, Regeneration

and Adoption in our drawing, what ideas do these suggest to you?

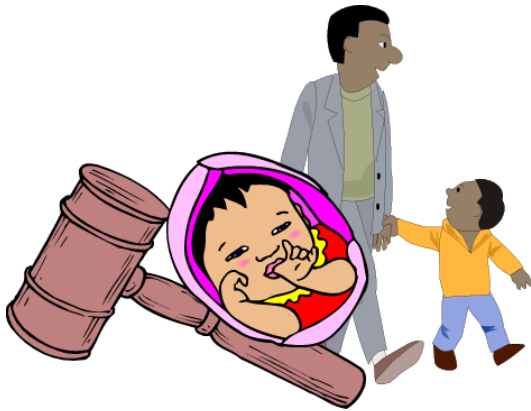
Some typical observations are:

- 1 a judge is the one who uses the gavel
- 2 judges make judgments, whether you are guilty or not
- 3 a judge's decision is final
- 4 the judge's decision is about the turning around of your life
- 4 the judge's decision signifies new life as a present reality
- 5 the baby is the sign of that new life
- 6 it is a spiritual starting over, not really just for babies
- 7 the baby is the regeneration, the beginning again once a person has turned their life around
- 8 babies are innocent, they don't choose to do wrong
- 9 the baby is the beginning but it doesn't stop there, which is why these pictures are combined together
- 10 babies don't stay that size, they grow into children, then adults
- 11 the little boy or son, is connected to the father
- 12 the son is dependent on the Father
- 13 even though they are going forward, the son is looking at the father
- 14 they are going in the same direction together
- 15 they are walking towards Entire Sanctification

When asked what these observations reveal to us, the following are often stated:

- 1 the gavel represents authority and the right to make decisions
- 2 Our judge makes right decisions
- 3 Once God, the Judge, has decided, then there's nothing else to add or take away
- 4 God declares that we are right, when we turn our lives around, which is away from sin
- 4 God declares that we now have new life
- 5 this new life is starting life again like a baby
- 6 this new life is a spiritual birth
- 7 it is an opportunity to start over, clean, right, fresh, the result of your choice
- 8 we, like babies, are now innocent of sin, until we choose to do so; fresh start
- 9 this is the beginning of the spiritual life, from here we grow
- 10 the same growth needs to happen spiritually, from new born, to child, to mature adult
- 11 God adopts us into His family and the church family
- 12 we need to learn to trust God
- 13 we need to learn to take direction from God, while staying connected to Him
- 14 the family of God should travel in the same direction together
- 15 Entire Sanctification is a journey to reach





**9 JUSTIFICATION** Luke 18:9-14

**9 REGENERATION** Ephesians 2:8-10 & Acts 8:26-40

**9 ADOPTION** Galatians 4:1-7

The final step in this section is the tenth Article of Faith, which is what? ...Entire Sanctification.

Let's look at the image for Entire Sanctification as shown on our Articles of Faith StudyMap. These images have been carefully and intentionally created to suggest various points to us. As you look at the image for Entire Sanctification in our drawing, what ideas do these suggest to you?

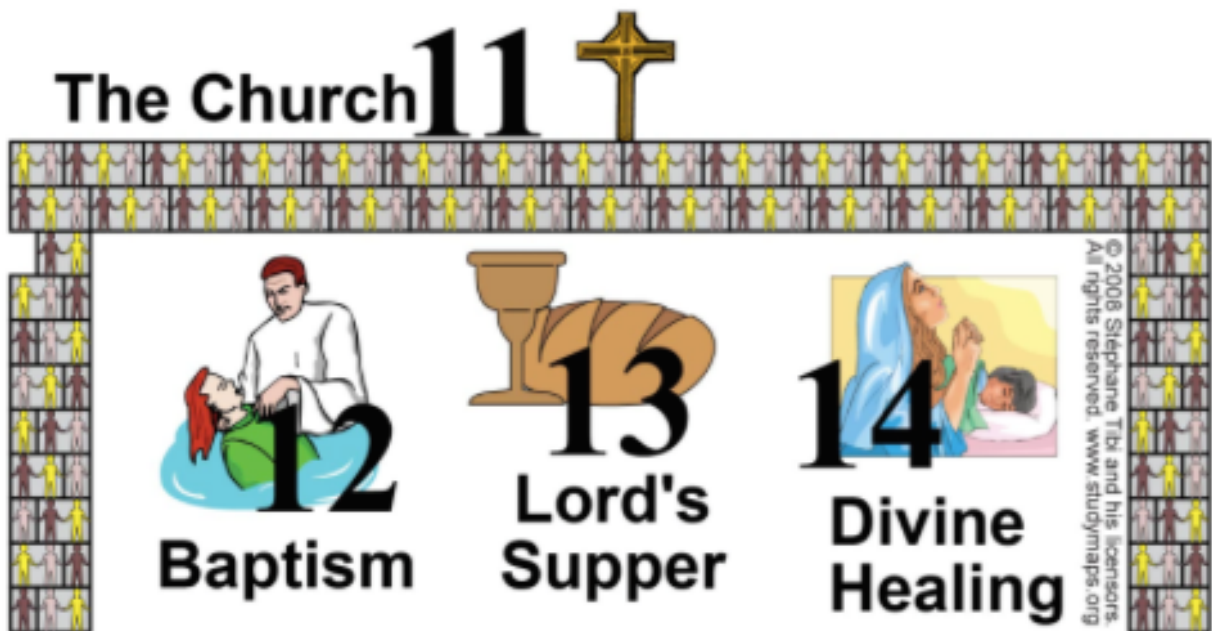
Some typical observations are:

- 1 the Holy Spirit is in the heart
- 2 the fire of the Spirit is in the heart
- 3 the dove is white, so the heart is pure
- 4 the fire is in the heart, so the heart is purified
- 5 the Spirit fills the heart, not just a small part
- 6 the Spirit is active IN the heart of a person who has turned their life around (A believer)
- 7 Entire Sanctification is when the Holy Spirit fills your whole heart



## 10 ENTIRE SANCTIFICATION

- a) 1 Thessalonians 5:22-24 & Romans 12:1-2
- b) Ezekiel 36:25-27



We now move to the next section of the Articles of Faith which is a combination of images that will teach us about the corporate life of those who have turned their lives around, are walking together in their new lives and striving for entire sanctification. Corporately we call this group of people, The Church. We will look at these individually

before considering the implications of how they work together. They are grouped in this way because of the relationships or activity and purpose.

Let's take a look at the first Article of Faith in this section, which is Article Number 11 and is called what? ...The Church.

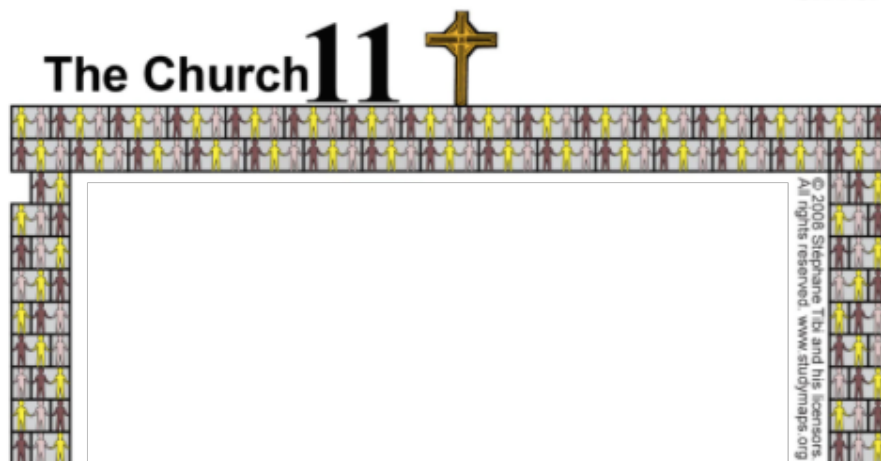
We want to begin by just looking at the image for The Church as shown on our Articles of Faith StudyMap. These images have been carefully and intentionally created to suggest various points to us. As you look at the image for The Church in our drawing, what ideas does this suggest to you?

Some typical observations are:

- 1 The Church is identified by the cross
- 2 The cross is unique to the church, no other building has this
- 3 The cross is on top which signifies its authority
- 4 The people of the church are identified with the cross
- 5 The Church is made up of lots of smaller pieces / blocks
- 6 The blocks are actually people
- 7 The people are different colors
- 8 There is a missing piece
- 9 There are no doors, it's wide open

When asked what these observations reveal to us, the following are often stated:

- 1 The work of Christ on the cross is what identifies The Church
- 2 The Church is unique in this world, no other faith has what The Church has
- 3 The work of Christ carries the authority given by God
- 4 When you are part of The Church, you must be part of all the cross stands for
- 5 The Church is made up of all those who have become born again
- 6 The Church is not a building but a group of believers
- 7 These believing people come from everywhere, all races, tribes, and nations.
- 8 This is symbolic for The Church always being under construction, always room for one more.
- 9 The Church is open to everyone who believes.



# 11 THE CHURCH

a) 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

b) 1 Peter 2:4-5 & Acts 2:41-47

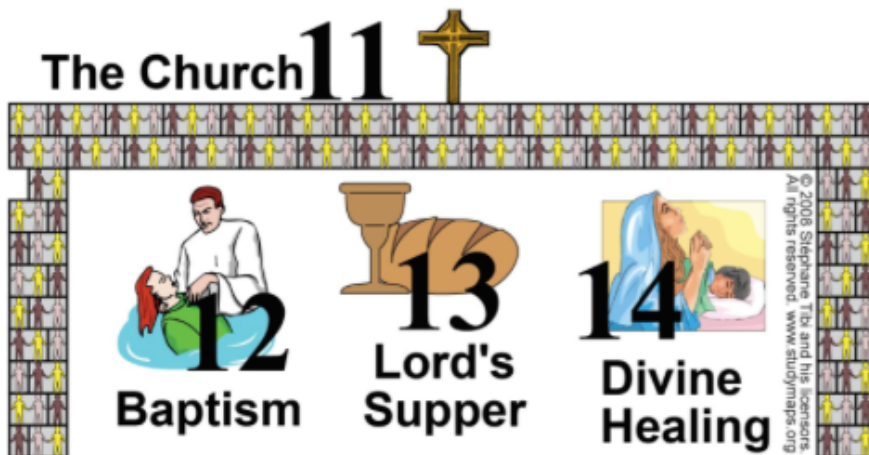
Now, we will examine the next three images. Take note of where these images are located. What does that suggest about these activities?

Some typical observations are:

- 1 These are the activities that happen inside the church
- 2 Since The Church is actually people, then these are the activities of the people who make up the church
- 3 These seem to be special activities, with spiritual emphasis
- 4 With no doors, it seems like these are open for anybody

When asked what these observations reveal to us, the following are often stated:

- 1 That this unique group of people, identified as The Church, practice these activities
- 2 It is the people of The Church who do these things
- 3 These activities are spiritually grounded, connected to the church
- 4 These activities are for everyone associated with the church to do regularly



Let's take a look at the first of the activities that happen in the Church, which is what? ... Baptism

Let's look at the image for Baptism as shown on our Articles of Faith StudyMap. Remember, these images have been carefully and intentionally created to suggest various points to us. As you look at the image selected for the Baptism in our

drawing, what ideas does this suggest to you? What's the very first thing you notice?

Some typical observations are:

- 1 Baptism is done by 'church' people
- 2 Baptism is a sign that you are connected to the church
- 3 Baptism is done by immersion
- 4 The person baptizing is wearing white
- 5 the person being baptized is wearing green
- 6 They both have red hair...(just for fun...)
- 7 These are the activities of the church, which makes it unique from other organizations.
- 8 These are significant, life changing events. These could be considered milestones.

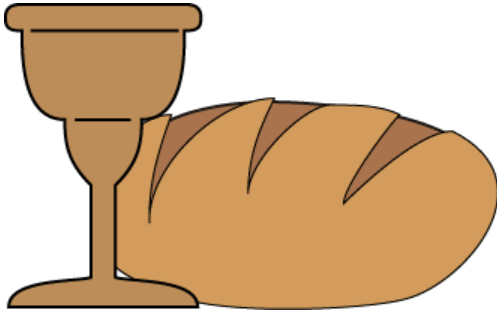
When asked what these observations reveal to us, the following are often stated:

- 1 Some churches have rules about who can baptize
- 2 Baptism is a sign that you have changed your life or joined the church; it is also an act of obedience
- 3 This is a way that we see baptism done in the Bible
- 4 White is the color of purity, showing that the church is a place of purity
- 5 green is the color of growth, showing that baptism is a step of a growing believer
- 6 These people are not African, Asian, or from Latin America...(just for fun)



## 12 BAPTISM

- a) Luke 3:2-22
- b) Acts 2:37-41
- b) Acts 8:26-40



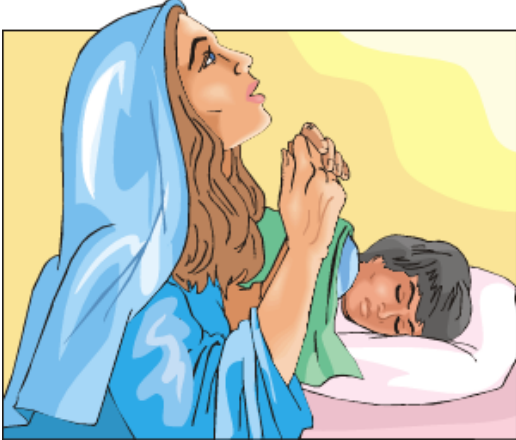
## 13 LORD'S SUPPER

a) Luke 22:14-20

b) 1 Corinthians 11:23-32

Some typical observations are:

- 1 The Lord supper is about bread and drink.
- 2 This is another activity that happens inside the church.
- 3 This is for church people.
- 4 It also is not behind closed doors, so it is open for anyone.
- 5 That could mean that it is open for anyone who is inside, or a part of the church.
- 6 The title is the "Lord's" supper, so that tells us there's something significant about it.
- 7 That also tells us that it is named for the one who started this observance.
- 8 This also suggests that we should find out why he started it, and how it is to be done and why it is to be done.
- 9 So the gaps in the picture alone, drive us to want to know the story behind the picture.
- 10 (Listening to the story we will fill in these gaps quite easily.)



## 14 DIVINE HEALING

a) Matthew 9:18-38 & James 5:13-16

b) Acts 3:1-10

Some of the typical observations are:

- 1 It looks like a woman is praying for a child. Some women can pray for divine healing.
- 2 The woman is looking up to heaven. So the source to which she prays, the source of the healing comes from heaven.
- 3 The woman does not appear to be a priest.
- 4 The woman does have her head covered. (Could be a problem in some areas...)  
(suggest that the picture is from a culture that covers their heads when they pray. Suggest that certain cultures do this while others do not. Suggest that the picture is based on first century believers, who did cover their heads at that time.)
- 5 It looks as if her eyes are open.
- 6 They are not in church as far as we can tell.
- 7 This means that divine healing prayer can happen anywhere.
- 8 Define healing is another activity of the church.
- 9 It is an activity of the people who are associated with the church.
- 10 Back to the open doors, it is available to anyone.
- 11 Anyone can pray for divine healing.
- 12 Praying for divine healing is not limited to the priests.



# 15 2nd COMING OF CHRIST

Matthew 26:23-46

Some of the typical observations are:

- 1 Christ is dressed in white.
- 2 He is standing on a cloud, so he is in heaven.
- 3 He's looking down. He's looking down at earth.
- 4 He's looking down to find those who are His.
- 5 He has one hand pointing up and one hand reaching out.
- 6 This signifies that he is reaching out for those who are his, in order to take them up to his father.
- 7 He is dressed in white, which is a sign or a symbol of purity.
- 8 The idea is that only the pure will go with Jesus back to the father in heaven.
- 9 He is also barefoot, which in the Bible, is a symbol of holiness.
- 10 This is placed in order after the church, which is significant to the understanding that Jesus will come for those who have been doing the activities of the church.







## **16 RESURRECTION**

John 5:24-29

Typical observations often include:

- 1 (This person is also dressed in white, signifying purity.) or if it is gray, this
- 2 This person is also in the clouds, signifying heaven.
- 3 It looks as if she is looking up, as to where Jesus was coming from.
- 4 Her arms are raised as if in praise, or reaching up to a Father.
- 5 The stories Jesus told of coming back must be true.
- 6 The story says that everyone will be raised, which leads to the next part...



## **16 JUDGMENT**

a) Matthew 25:31-46

b) Revelation 20:11-15

Typical observations include:

- 1 We have seen a gavel before, it indicates judgment.
- 2 This gavel is in heaven.
- 3 It is used for all those who are raised, which is everyone.
- 4 All those who are raised to heaven, meet this judgment.
- 5 The judgment must come from God, the ultimate Judge.
- 6) From the stories, we understand there are 2 options in this judgment, which are clearly seen in the next images



## 16 DESTINY

Daniel 12:1-3

Typical observations include:

- 1 There is an angel just above the gavel.
- 2 The two sides of the judgment are shown on each side of the angel.
- 3 One side is flames, the other side is heaven's gate.
- 4 The flames are punishment, hell.
- 5 The gate to heaven is the reward.
- 6 This indicates a choice.
- 7 The choice must have already been made.
- 8 The choice must have been made by the One holding the gavel, the Judge.
- 9 The choice must have been made based on actions while the person was on earth.