



ROSE HEIGHTS
C H U R C H

LIFEGROUP LEADERSHIP GUIDE

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Questions? Ideas?

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**CALLED TO BE
THE CHURCH**

THIS IS BIG

Why we believe small group relationships are big (and key) to your growth and God's glory.

If you've been around Rose Heights Church very long, you've probably noticed that we're passionate about obeying Jesus' command to love one another. As His disciples, we understand that we experience God most fully in the context of loving community. When God's family connects, the Holy Spirit encourages and empowers us through each other to carry out God's purposes in our world.

There are 4 reasons we'd love for every member of Rose Heights Church to be a part of a LifeGroup:

1. LifeGroups are the biblical model for Christian growth and mission. Right after Jesus was raised from the dead and the Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost, the early church met in temple courts (large gatherings) and in homes (small gatherings).
2. LifeGroups foster close relationships and authentic community. The small group atmosphere is ready-made for building real friendships that last.
3. LifeGroups are how we care for each other outside of a Sunday morning service. When a person is struggling emotionally, spiritually, socially, etc., group members take notice and provide prayerful support and encouragement.
4. LifeGroups help to cultivate leadership within the church. They are places where potential leaders witness how others put their faith into action, where they can reflect and learn to grow.

"LifeGroups meet some of the most important needs we have: need for spiritual growth, friendship, support, encouragement, strength in time of trial, need to give and receive love, and to serve others."



A SPACE TO
BE CARED FOR
AND LOVED

THE BIG PICTURE

How We Do LifeGroups At Rose Heights

Rose Heights has chosen a hybrid model. We have both on-campus and off-campus LifeGroups. No matter your location, schedule, or interests, there's a group for you!

1. On-campus LifeGroups that meet on Wednesday nights have children and student ministries available. These groups follow a schedule consisting of five semesters with short breaks in between and longer breaks in July and December.
2. All other groups follow the same schedule and childcare is arranged by the individual group leader(s) as needed.
3. Each semester, our online group directory is updated and people can register online to join a group. See <https://www.roseheights.org/lifegroups>
4. Our LifeGroups are **"free market."** Leaders can choose their curriculum or activity (*with the approval of the Discipleship Pastor*). This allows for a good variety of topics that meet the interest and needs of a variety of people. From sports groups to prayer groups, mom groups to men's groups, bible study groups to creative arts groups, our groups are as varied as we are.
5. Groups meet in a variety of locations — the Main Campus, homes, parks restaurants, coffee shops, office buildings, etc.
6. Under the direction of our Lead Pastor, we may interrupt the free market system and move all groups to an alignment. This is when all groups study the same curriculum or theme. The purpose of an alignment is to bring the whole church family together for unified vision and learning.
7. All our groups are led by Christ-centered people who make the experience Christ centered. Whether a group meets to go hiking, study a book of the Bible, or grow as parents, the goal is always to move forward in our faith.

WHO CAN JOIN A LIFEGROUP?

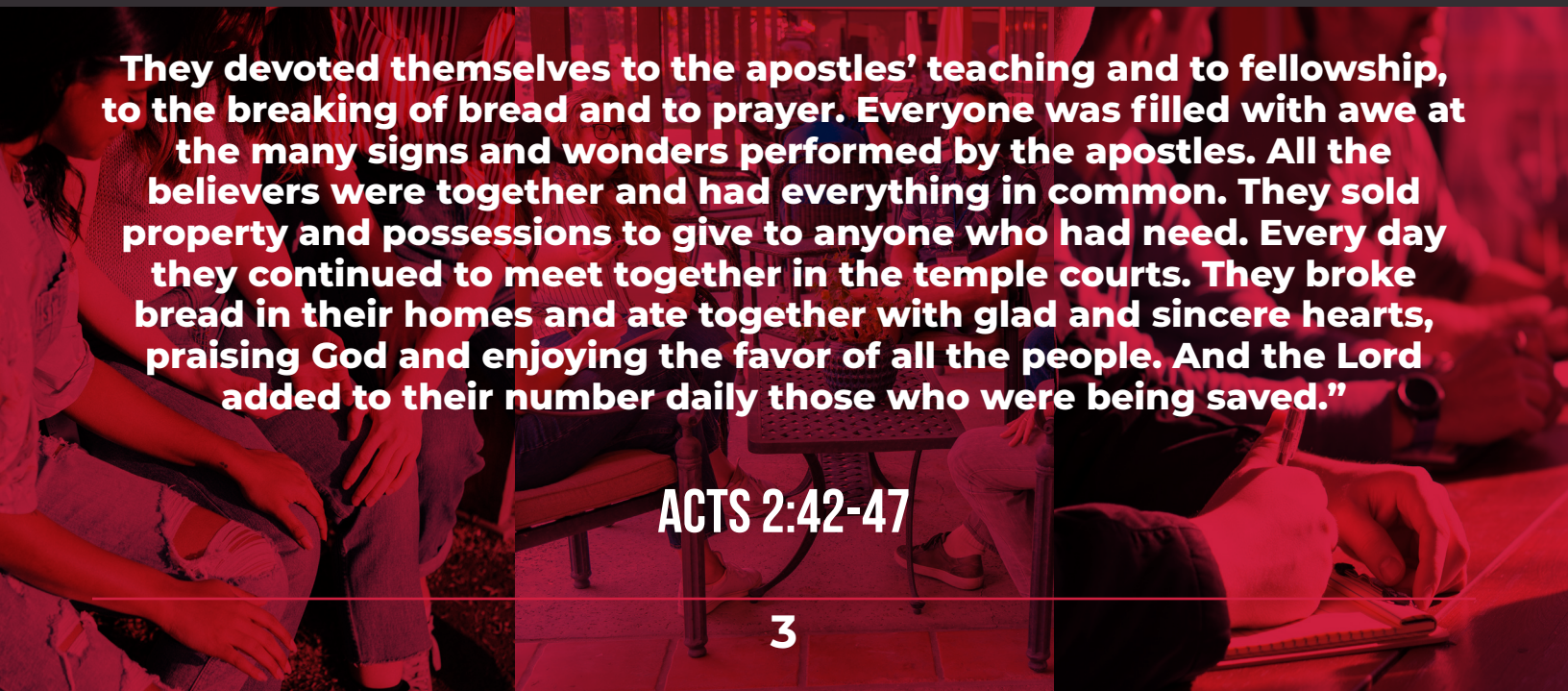
We believe that every human being has infinite value to God and to us, as God's family. Therefore:

- Rose Heights LifeGroups are for anyone. Church members, church attenders, the unchurched, those unfamiliar with Christ, as well as friends and family.
- LifeGroups are recommended for the spiritual health of everyone, but we especially like to invite those brand new to Rose Heights. We understand that every person is one tough experience away from walking away from the Lord, and when a new believer or a new person connects with a LifeGroup, they'll find God's strength and the love of Christ-centered community to stay the course.

WHO CAN LEAD A LIFEGROUP?

Anyone who:

- Loves God and lives a lifestyle that reflects biblical values and will not discredit God or Rose Heights Church,
- Has completed Growth Track and become a member of Rose Heights Church, and
- Has completed LifeGroup Leadership Training.



They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many signs and wonders performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

ACTS 2:42-47



**WE GROW WITH
ONE ANOTHER**

THE WIN

Based on Acts 2, there are 6 things we do together as LifeGroups. It's a win when all of these are accomplished.

1 We study Scripture together. The leader points group members to the truths of the Bible whether through study together, doing a YouVersion devotional together, or helping group members develop habits of daily time with God through His Word.

THE WIN: A group member values God's word as the standard for life and godliness. A group member takes a next step by spending more personal time with God through the Bible and his or her thinking is being transformed to line up with scriptural truths. (Romans 12:1-2).

2 We pray together. Leaders model prayer in the group and for group members. Group members pray for one another and for those yet to know Christ.

THE WIN: A group member takes a next step by praying with and for other group members and others as well as developing a regular rhythm of prayer for the people in his or her circles of influence who are yet to know Christ.

3 We care for one another. Leaders do to and for group members what they would like to see group members doing to and for one another. LifeGroups are the front line of care for people at Rose Heights Church.

THE WIN: Group members recognize the needs of others in their group and reach out to help through prayer, meeting a physical need, and connecting outside of the group time.

4 We serve together. Each LifeGroup is encouraged to serve others. Whether this means serving on a Serving Team at church, a community outreach event, or a missions trip, the LifeGroup leader helps group members know that God made each of them to make a difference and they can impact their world. The goal is not just participating in a big day or going on a big trip, but by participating, the group members will have confidence to live big lives of service.

THE WIN: Group members participate in serving at the church, a service project, and or a local or global missions effort.



**DON'T DO
LIFE ALONE**

5 We help each other take next steps. Disciples make disciples.

Leaders understand their win is not a meeting, but a group of people becoming more like Jesus Christ in attitudes and actions. Leaders look for and bring out the gifts and callings of those in their group.

THE WIN: Group members understand they have God-given influence and are taking steps to live out their purpose in their daily lives. The leader identifies and begins developing a new leader.

6 We have fun together. LifeGroup participation should be enjoyable.

People should feel included, valued and respected. Leaders work to learn names, include everyone, connect group members to one another and bring joy to the room. (Acts 2, “glad and sincere hearts”).

THE WIN: Group members show up for your group. They don’t want to miss a meeting. Group members invite others to groups.

“Making disciples of Jesus is the overflow of the delight in being disciples of Jesus.”

NOTES

THE THREE B's OF A LIFEGROUP LEADER

Be Prepared

- Attend a LifeGroup Leader Training prior to each semester. At Rose Heights Church, leaders are learners, and make time to grow in their gifts and skills. Training is held to help you grow in your leadership skills and enable you to carry out the vision of Rose Heights Church through your group.
- Connect with your apprentice, pray together, discuss your group vision, your semester plan, and how to use curriculum.
- Be ready for each session. Pray and have a good handle on each session.
- Attend church-wide vision Sundays. These are usually held two times a year.
- Lack of preparation communicates lack of value of your task and the people in your group. In a world that is fractured, who we are as a community of believers provides real hope.

***Because we loved so much, we were delighted to share
with you not only the Gospel of God but our
lives as well.***

1 Thess 2:8

Be There

- You have to show up to be the Church. Make attending your group a priority. Attend all your group meetings unless it's unavoidable.
- Be active in the larger community of Rose Heights Church by attending corporate worship and any special events.

Be Involved

- The goal is not a good 60 or 90 minute meeting weekly. The goal is to make space for a Spirit-empowered community where people are known and loved.
- Connect with group members during the week. Celebrate birthdays, follow up on needs.
- Consistent and informed prayer. Regular prayer for and with your group members is one of the most powerful things you can do to align your group members' hearts with the Lord. Ask group members how you can pray for them and follow up later.

NOTES

LIFEGROUP ROLES

The LifeGroup Leader

LifeGroup leaders are key leaders at Rose Heights Church.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Acts 2:42

Leaders should understand and agree to the following:

- LifeGroup Leader Agreement

-Membership And LifeGroup Leadership

Rose Height's LifeGroups are one of our primary pipelines for leadership development. We ask that people complete Growth Track and become a member prior to leading a group.

-Why Membership?

- We believe that church membership is an outward sign of a heart commitment to a local church family and its mission.
- LifeGroup leaders model commitment to community and this is exemplified in church membership.
- LifeGroup leaders carry out the vision and values of Rose Heights Church through their groups. No group functions autonomously apart from the larger life of Rose Heights Church. This ensures a healthier experience for those signing up for a group.

The New LifeGroup Leader

A **“new LifeGroup leader”** is a person new to leading groups at Rose Heights Church or a person who has never led a small group before.

LifeGroups are a primary leadership pipeline for Rose Heights Church. Leaders should seek to develop group members, share responsibilities and invite individuals to consider becoming a LifeGroup Apprentice.

Our system to support new LifeGroup leaders is as follows:

- New leaders have a “get to know you” interview with the Discipleship Pastor.
- New leaders are invited to attend the LifeGroup Leader Training held before the start of the semester.
- New leaders will have a LifeGroup coach who will commit to pray for the leader, for their leadership and group weekly, as well as checking in weekly by text and in person throughout the semester. The coach offers spiritual and practical support to the new leader. Coaches do to and for the new leader what we hope the new leader will do to and for his or her group members.

The LifeGroup Apprentice

A LifeGroup Apprentice is a LifeGroup Leader in training. Apprentices learn to be Leaders by assisting and supporting the Leader in leading their group. Apprentices help provide a comfortable and safe environment where group members connect with each other, learn biblical truths together, share personal struggles with each other, and pray for each other. A LifeGroup Apprentice’s goal is to learn how to help each group member take their next step in their relationship with God.

When the time is right, the Apprentice will step out to lead his or her own LifeGroup.

The LifeGroup Coach

A coach is someone who is committed to the personal spiritual growth and success of a LifeGroup leader. Coaching is discipleship.

A coach will commit to:

- Pray weekly for leader.
- Reach out and connect with leader weekly.
- Pray for and with the leader.
- Pray for leader as a person (find out needs as is appropriate).
- Pray for leader in task of leading.
- Pray with leader during weekly coaching connection.

- Coach will attend short connection training with the Discipleship Pastor.
- Coaches are LifeGroup leaders who lead well and are committed to developing others.
- Coaches will commit to serve for one semester.

THE WIN: A new leader experiences support spiritually, personally, and as a group leader. The group leader and coach develop a relationship which enables the new leader to accomplish the “Wins” listed in 6 Things LifeGroups Do.

LifeGroup Lead Team Member

The LifeGroup Lead Team will work alongside the Discipleship Pastor to:

- Champion LifeGroup discipleship at Rose Heights Church.
- Identify and invite new leaders for each semester.
- Participate in LifeGroup promotion during “Fill” month by rallying leaders, setting up for promotion, using his or her skills to connect as many individuals to groups as possible.
- Meet monthly with Lead Team to execute a healthy and growing LifeGroup ministry at Rose Heights Church.
- Lead Team members will fulfill the requirements of a LifeGroup leader.
- Lead Team members should commit to serve for 2 semesters minimum.

“An invitation to serve is an invitation to greatness.”

NOTES

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LIFEGROUP LEADERSHIP GUIDE

APPENDIX

- STARTING STRONG**
- LIFEGROUP MEMBER AGREEMENT**
- LIFEGROUP LEADER AGREEMENT**
- BEST ICEBREAKERS**
- S.O.A.P BIBLE STUDY**
- THE VISION AND VALUES OF ROSE HEIGHTS**

Resources for LifeGroup Leaders can be found on the Rose Heights Church website on the LifeGroups page under Resources.

<https://www.roseheights.org/lifegroups>

STARTING STRONG

Before Your First Meeting:

- Become familiar with Rose Heights Online Group Directory and locate your group list and start praying for those who have signed up for your group.
- Meet with your co-leaders and apprentice in the month before your group starts.
- Make one last contact with each person signed up a few days before your first meeting.
- Go to the LifeGroup Leader Resource page on the church website and become familiar with resources there. <https://www.roseheights.org/lifegroups>

Your First LifeGroup Session:

- Start and end on time. This shows respect for people's time.
- Be prepared. At group start time, be ready to focus on the people, not on your lesson or logistics.
- First 15 minutes, welcome each person, allow people to arrive, get food/snack, introduce people to each other.

Use name tags.

- Gather group members and be sure room dynamic is good for conversation. Think circles not rows.
- Utilize an Ice Breaker. This can be longer for your first meeting so people can connect. (Longer: up to 30 minutes).

Ice breakers may seem trivial, but they achieve some important things:

- Help people transition from life to a spiritual focus.
- Create common ground around an area everyone can share on (first car, favorite hobby, best sports team, etc).

- Don't use biblical topics for ice breakers. These exclude seekers and those who don't "have a favorite Bible verse" yet!) People connect naturally before they can connect spiritually.
- Where can you find ice breakers? Google "ice breakers."

Leaders help groups know what to expect.

Leaders should introduce the LifeGroup topic and give vision to what people can get out of the group. Share the purpose of your group with excitement, passion, and build expectation for what God will do in your time together. Show an introductory video, if applicable.

Leaders should communicate:

- The group plan, semester dates, food plan, childcare arrangements, etc.
- Group expectations: Go over LifeGroups Agreement found on the LifeGroup Leader Resource Page on our website.
- Opportunities to share the responsibility of the group. Explain different ways for members to help out, have a sign up sheet out, and in the following week, individually contact people and invite individuals to do things. Explain that the purpose of a group is spiritual development and we grow by serving.
- Introduce the idea that your LifeGroup will encourage its members to actively serve others inside and outside of the church. Together, we will have opportunities to help people in our world experience God.

Ask if there are any questions.

This is optional, but you can ask people to write down on a card what they expect to get out of the group. Collect cards. This may be helpful to you.

Leave time for prayer for one another. Communicate that if people are not comfortable praying out loud, they won't be required to.

Talk, eat, dismiss on time.

We don't recommend using the first meeting for the first lesson. Why?

- It's important to be intentional about connecting people relationally. Take time for this. Have fun! People will learn more and attend more when they are connected relationally. Take time to lay the ground work for a strong group.

After the group, get feedback from those with whom you lead.

MEMBER AGREEMENT

Welcome to LifeGroups at Rose Heights!

As a member of this group, you will be asked to enter into an agreement with the other members to make this LifeGroup a healthy place where everyone can grow. This agreement also helps to clarify expectations for your time together. Spiritual growth takes commitment and action. We ask you to understand the following commitments:

Be there. I will make this group a priority by attending, participating in discussions, and keeping up with outside reading or study. This will help me get the most spiritual growth out of my LifeGroup experience. If I can't attend a group meeting or event, I'll let my leader know ahead of time.

Respect for others. I will show respect to others in my LifeGroup by keeping confidences, following the leadership, listening, not dominating conversation, and giving others the room they need to grow. Civility is our standard among LifeGroup members. Work to ask questions and understand the viewpoint of others. We walk hand in hand around the Gospel even when we don't see eye to eye on each lesser issue.

Worshipping together. I will be a part of the ministry of Rose Heights by making corporate worship a priority, by contributing, by serving and inviting others. I understand that my LifeGroup is an integral part of Rose Heights Church and meets as a part of the larger body.

Group life is a shared responsibility. We all have something to contribute by the use of our time and gifts. Roles such as prayer, coordinating food, caring for each other outside the group, planning an outreach, and even leading the discussion are shared so we all are equipped and growing in our gifts and purposes.

Growth by serving others. Each semester, I will make every effort to participate on a Rose Heights Serving Team, outreach opportunity, and/or local/global missions effort.

LEADER AGREEMENT

As a member of this group, you will be asked to enter into an agreement with the other members to make this LifeGroup a healthy place where everyone can grow. This agreement also helps to clarify expectations for your time together. Spiritual growth takes commitment and action. We ask you to understand the following commitments:

I will embody and reflect the values and principles of Rose Height Church and will follow the leadership of the Staff.

I will faithfully attend corporate worship at Rose Heights and:

- Intentionally identify and greet those in my LifeGroup on Sundays.
- Participate in the spiritual life of Rose Heights by my financial giving.

I will make my LifeGroup ministry a priority by:

- Faithfully attending my LifeGroup.
- Finishing my leadership commitment until the conclusion of the semester.
- Preparing beforehand for my group.
- Inviting and welcoming newcomers to my group.
- Responding to the leadership of my coach.

I understand that I am responsible for the care and development of my LifeGroup, as a result I will:

- Pray for the individuals in my group.
- Provide follow up for the people in my group whether present or absent.
- Lead my group in providing care for one another.
- Intentionally develop the gifts and callings of people in group by sharing roles and
- raising up new leaders.

I will strive to create a healthy environment for growth in my LifeGroup by:

- Involving as many people as possible in group life: discussion, social activities and especially leadership development.
- Creating a safe, comfortable, respectful and welcoming environment for every individual.
- Leading my group to participate in serving opportunities.

BEST ICE BREAKERS

Except for your first meeting, an ice breaker should only take about 10 to 15 minutes of your meeting time. This is an important time to help people transition from commute, work, and life to focusing on the Lord. Don't skip it!

- **What's in common.** Get in groups of 2 or 3 and give the group 2 minutes to find 10 things in common. They can't use things like body parts (noses, etc.)
- **Heros.** In groups of 2 or 3, Name 3 heroes past or present and why you like them.
- **If you could...**
 - Travel anywhere, where would you go?
 - Be a guest on a tv show, which one would it be?
 - Live in a past time, when would it be, and why?
 - Eat any food for lunch, what would it be?
- **Would you rather:**
 - Read a book or watch a movie?
 - Read minds or be invisible?
 - Own a cat or a dog?
 - Be smart or be strong?
- **If you were a, what would it be?**
 - Read a book or watch a movie?
 - Read minds or be invisible?
 - Own a cat or a dog?
 - Be smart or be strong?
- **Have everyone in your group share their name with an adjective before it which starts with the same letter and describes them.**
 - Example: Charming Cassandra
- **What is the weirdest fact about yourself?**
- **Where did you live in 5th grade and what did you do for fun?**
- **What is your best moment from the past week?**

S.O.A.P. BIBLE STUDY

S.O.A.P. method is a simple-to-follow method for observing the Scriptures and applying biblical principles to our daily lives. The acronym S.O.A.P. stands for Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer. It is an easy to use 4-step study method that uses your Bible, notepad, and a pen.

How To Use The **S.O.A.P.** Method

S — Scripture. Choose any Scripture or passage of Scripture. Read the verse or verses in your Bible. Write and highlight meaningful words, phrases, or scriptures that stand out or resonate with you.

O — Observation. Take a few moments to observe the passage of Scripture you've read and ask further questions about the text. This step will help you to get a more in-depth view of what you've just read. Here are a few examples of questions:

- What is the overall message of the passage?
- Were there any commands or instructions?
- Are there any warnings in the text?
- What truth can you learn?
- What do you feel God is showing you through His Word? Did you learn anything new?

A — Application. Reflect on how you can apply these Scriptures to your daily life. After reading the passage of Scripture:

- How does this verse apply to your life today?
- How can you implement what you've read?
- What changes do you need to make—in your thinking, attitudes, or actions?
- What lessons can you take away from the passage?

P — Prayer. Spend time in prayer related to the passage. What do you want to tell God as a result of what you've read? Try to incorporate the Scriptures you've read as you pray. In prayer, thank God for new revelation and ask Him for wisdom to help you apply these verses to your life.

Applying the Scriptures to our lives is as simple of knowing the Word and doing what it says.

The S.O.A.P. method helps us to understand that God loves us and has given us all instructions to live an abundant life through Christ. Remember, the Bible tells us to be hearers and doers of His word. As we learn and apply Scripture in our daily lives, we are becoming “doers” of God’s Word.

“But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.” — James 1:22

THE MISSION & BELIEFS OF ROSE HEIGHTS

OUR MISSION

Rose Heights Church is a balanced church that focuses on the mission that Jesus gave us in Matthew 22:37-39; "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" At Rose Heights, its simple; Love One Another

OUR BELIEFS

Rose Heights Church is a balanced church that focuses on the mission that Jesus gave us in Matthew 22:37-39; "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" At Rose Heights, its simple; Love One Another

We believe the Bible to be the inspired, infallible, and authoritative Word of God. The Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Old and New Testaments pointing to Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world.

We believe that there is One God, eternally revealed to the world in the Father, the Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. By Him were all things created.

We believe that God sent His Son, Jesus Christ to redeem all of mankind. Jesus Christ was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life on this earth, performed many undeniable miracles, was crucified for our sins, buried and was raised from the dead for our justification. By the name of Jesus Christ, and His name only, can mankind be saved. Jesus Christ sits at the Right Hand of the Father and will return personally in power and glory to receive His Church unto Himself.

We believe that mankind is sinful by nature and will perish without the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as revealed in His Gospel. That God wishes that no one should perish, but that all would come to this saving knowledge through the preaching of the Gospel to a lost and hopeless world.

For more information about what we believe, you can visit here:

<https://churchofgod.org/beliefs/declaration-of-faith>

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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WWW.ROSEHEIGHTS.ORG