

At Ridgewood, we are nothing more than real people living in a real world serving a real God.

October 19, 2025

Ridgewood CHURCH

Here are things that may be different from your previous church experiences:

No Age-Graded Ministries | All God's people - from infants to the elderly - are needed in relationships with each other. We worship together as one big family - the family of God.

Children are Welcome and Encouraged in the Worship Gathering

It is the parent's duty to train their children to participate in corporate worship, including singing, tithing, prayer, and active listening to the teaching of the Word of God. (Deut 31:12-13, Ezra 10:1, Matt 18:1-5, 19:13-15, Eph 6:1-4, Col 3:20) As part of this training process, children may make small noises in the service. These are a reminder "to such belong the Kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14). However, we also have the "Genesis Room" at the far end of the hall set up with video and audio feed for your convenience if you feel your child needs more attention.

We Partake in the Lord's Supper Weekly | We ask that the elements only be taken by professing, baptized believers who are in a good standing with their local church. (Acts 2:42-47, 1 Corinthians 11:23-24)

We Practice Systematic Exposition | The Bible is God's word and is our final authority in all matters of faith and practice. The music is prayerfully selected based on each week's text of Scripture. (Acts 2:42-47, Colossians 3:16)

Weekly Fellowship Meal | Families of Ridgewood have brought food for their own household and extra to share with visitors. Fellowship is one way we endeavor to 'encourage one another' in our Christian walk. (Acts 2:42-47, Hebrews 10:24-25)

Use this Bulletin Throughout the Week as a Home Worship Guide

God has called you to disciple your household. He has also called His church to encourage, equip, and expect you to disciple your household. Use this bulletin as a home-worship guide throughout the week.

The song of the month is a great place to start with family worship. The prayer guide is a tool designed to guide you and your family in prayer. The catechism/doctrine and home devotions are wonderful discipleship tools for everyone, especially for children of all ages. If you have any questions, the fellowship meal is a great time to get help and encouragement from others. That's what we are here for!

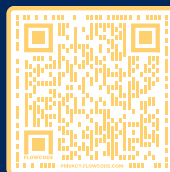
True Life Cards | We encourage you to pick up some True Life Cards in the foyer and give out a few every week. Pray for an opportunity of Gospel conversation with and the salvation of people in the following categories: Family, Friends, Neighbors, Coworkers, Community. Go to truelife.org for more information.

Announcements:

- » **Wednesday Nights at 6p**
 - Bible Study continues this Wednesday at 6p. We are continuing our journey through Systematic Theology by working through a series on Eschatology which is the study of last days. Title of the series is "End Times Made Simple."
- » **Night to Shine SETX Upcoming Dates**
 - Online Registration for Guests and Volunteers - 11/1/25
 - NTS SETX Board Meeting - 11/12/25
 - Prom Dress Boutique - 12/7/25
 - Save the Date: "Passport to Paris" Night to Shine SETX - 2/13/26
- » **Church Board 2026 Budget Meeting #1 - 11/16/25 at 12:30p**
- » **Extra-Cushion Diaper Ministry**
 - Outreach Port Arthur will be distributing diapers the second Wednesday of each month from 3-5p. Contact Savannah S if you would like to help.
- » **Operating:**
 - Please remember to be faithful in your tithes and offerings (2 Cor. 9:6-7)
 - Offering plates are at the back of the auditorium, or text "\$amount" to 409-239-0774

409.729.6000 • ridgewoodchurch@yahoo.com • www.ridgewoodchurch.us

Our Purpose... To Belong to Christ
Our Mission... To Become like Christ
Our Vision... To Bear Christ's Fruit



Welcome Guests!



Order of Service: October 19, 2025

Sermon Notes:

Prelude "The Power of the Cross"

Welcome

Catechism/Responsorial - Doctrine - God's Ordinances for His Church

117. What two ordinances did Christ give to His church? Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

118. Why did Christ give these ordinances? To show that His disciples belong to Him, and to remind them of what He has done for them.

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 11:26, "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

Pray for our Church Body (James 5:16)

Cody & Chrisy Abhsire Family

Pray for Kings and Those in Authority (1 Timothy 2:2)

Local | 4 Council Members | Groves City Council

State | Bryan Hughes | TX Senate Chair State Affairs

National | Chuck Grassley | Senate Chair Judiciary Committee

Pray for the Great Commission (Luke 10:2)

New Testament Scripture

Romans 3:19-26, page 941

Congregational Singing

"There is a Fountain"

"Grace Greater than Our Sin"

"Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me"

Old Testament Scripture

Exodus 40, page 80

Home Worship Song of the Month | scan QR code for lyrics

"Not What These Hands Have Done" by Horatius Bonar - 1861

Message

The Gospel Explained: The Purpose of the Law

Gal.3:19-25, p 973

Confession/Repentance

Lord's Supper

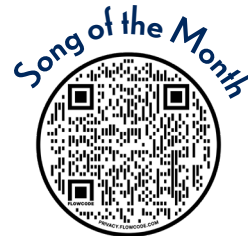
"Rock of Ages"

Dismissal/Offering

"Doxology"

Fellowship Luncheon

Please join us in the gym for fellowship and food!



UNIT 7 – SECTION 2

Baptism

QUESTIONS TO LEARN:

117. What two ordinances did Christ give to his church?

Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

118. Why did Christ give these ordinances?

To show that his disciples belong to him, and to remind them of what he has done for them.

119. What is baptism?

The dipping of believers into water, as a sign of their union with Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection.

120. What is the purpose of baptism?

To show believers that God has cleansed them from their sins through Jesus Christ.

121. Who are to be baptized?

Only those who repent of their sins, and believe in Christ for salvation.*

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When God told Philip to approach a chariot on the road to Gaza, Philip found an Ethiopian official struggling to understand the prophecies about Jesus set out in Isaiah. The Ethiopian embraced Philip's timely explanation of the gospel, promptly asked to be baptized, and went on his way with new joy in Christ. Identification with Christ through baptism was joyful but costly for former Hindus in Serampore, India, who accepted Christ through the ministry of the pioneer missionary William Carey.

**We have omitted question 122: "Should babies be baptized? No; because the Bible neither commands it nor gives any example of it."*

On His Way Rejoicing

The Ethiopian instructed his charioteer to pull over along the road that led south out of Jerusalem. The ride was just too bumpy for him to read while they traveled, and right now the Ethiopian wanted to read more than he wanted to get to Gaza. After all, the queen had not given him a deadline by which he must return from his pilgrimage, so he had plenty of time.

As the chariot jolted over one last rock and came to an uneven stop, the Ethiopian pulled three crisp new scrolls from their hiding place under the seat. He knew how fortunate he had been to stumble across the capable scribe who had made these. Here in one bundle were all of the prophecies God had given through Isaiah!

Unrolling one of the scrolls, he began reading aloud:

Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering.

"A tender shoot," whispered the foreigner to himself. "Who is this man Isaiah wrote about so long ago? Who has been so favored by God but despised by men?" He read on a little further:

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

The Ethiopian was really amazed by this. "Clearly, if this man suffered willingly, then his torment was a gift of love. Who would suffer like this for another?" he cried out.

At that moment, the Ethiopian noticed a stranger standing next to his chariot. "Do you understand what you are reading?" asked the newcomer, whose name was Philip, one of Jesus' twelve disciples. The Holy Spirit had sent him to the Ethiopian.

"I don't think I can understand it unless someone explains it to me," the Ethiopian answered, noting the man's Jewish dress and features.

Perhaps he could be of assistance. "Would you like to read along with me?" the Ethiopian ventured.

Philip was beside him in a flash, and the Ethiopian continued where he had left off:

He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.

"Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself, or someone else?" the Ethiopian asked Philip as the chariot began to creep south again.

"Why, it is Jesus the Christ," Philip answered, without hesitation. And Philip told the Ethiopian how it had been God's will to punish the sinless Jesus for the rebellion of sinners.

At Philip's words, a hope dawned in the Ethiopian's heart. Wasn't he himself a sinner, one who like a sheep had gone astray from the God described so vividly in Jewish Scriptures? Hadn't he been searching for this truth for some time now? Or had God been drawing him to it? He could not tell for sure. But he wanted to join the company of those whose iniquities Christ had borne. Such a love was too great to ignore!

And so when the Ethiopian saw that the road drew within a few feet of a stream just ahead, he ordered the charioteer to halt once again. "Look, here is water," he burst out. "Why shouldn't I be baptized?"

Moments later, he waded into the stream with the apostle and was baptized. When the two came out of the water, Philip vanished and the Ethiopian did not see him again.

No matter – he had found Jesus! He climbed back into his chariot, tucked the scrolls away under the seat, and called out to the driver to resume their journey. And his heart danced with joy all the way to Gaza.

Taken from: Acts 8:26-39; Isaiah 53.

FROM THE BIBLE:

"Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, . . ." (Acts 2:36-38a)

TALKING IT OVER:

1. *Why did the Ethiopian ask to be baptized?*
2. *Why did Philip agree to baptize the Ethiopian? (Note that the Holy Spirit instructed Philip to go to the Ethiopian, from which Philip could have discerned that the Ethiopian was ready to embrace Christ as Savior.)*
3. *Why was the Ethiopian so joyful as his chariot proceeded to Gaza?*