

### Who are we?

People wonder about our story. We live in the story of God. We seek a relationship with God, by loving God and loving other people. This brief outline of God's story below is expressed in the Bible, the inspired authority for how people live with God.

### We Follow Jesus

This summarizes our identity and our mission. Followers of Jesus learn how to live with God. A follower is a learner (or apprentice or disciple) who absorbs from Jesus how to seek God. At First ABQ, we nurture an environment to naturally grow followers of Jesus through our activities and ministries. We invite you to follow Jesus with us. He teaches us to love God, love other people, and love ourselves.

Be with Jesus everywhere.Do what Jesus did.Say what Jesus said.Go where Jesus leads.

## We Believe in God

There is one God who created all things visible and invisible. God exists eternally as God the Creator, God the Son who redeems, and God the Holy Spirit who makes us holy.

Genesis 1-2, Romans 8, Ephesians 1:3-14

#### **God Created Humans**

God created human beings in the image of God to live in relationship with God. We can choose to live separate from or intimately related to God. Unfortunately, humans tend to turn away from God and live solely for ourselves.

Genesis 1-2, Romans 8, Ephesians 1:3-14

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# **First**

#### **God Brings Salvation**

God became human in the person of Jesus Christ to restore relationship with humanity. Jesus's life, ministry, death on the cross, burial, and resurrection from death all reveal God's intention to save. This free gift is received through faith and expressed by confession, repentance, and baptism. *1 Corinthians 15:1-5, Ephesians 2:1-10, Romans 6:23, John 3:16, Romans 10:9, Acts 2:37-29* 

#### **God Changes Lives**

God wants to transform us into the likeness of Jesus Christ. This transformation is initiated by God in salvation, sustained by God's grace, and grows as our will aligns with God's will.

Philippians 2:1-13, Romans 12:1-2

#### **God Gathers People**

The church is the gathering of people seeking God and following Christ by the Spirit's power. As we follow Jesus together, we welcome those separated from God and we mature those seeking God. Ephesians 4:1-16

#### **God's Lasting Promises**

Christ will return to offer final judgment. God's image will be fully restored as Christ in us. We will reign with Christ forever. Until then, we seek God by following Christ in the power of the Spirit. *1 John 3:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18* 

## We Live in God's Spirit

These spiritual practices show our life shared together in God's Spirit.

#### Worship

We worship God with our whole life, in every role and relationship. Worship includes praising God and being daily transformed by God.

Romans 11:32-12:2

#### **Baptism**

We imitate Jesus's life, death, and resurrection when believers are immersed in water for the forgiveness of sins, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the gift of eternal life.

*Titus 3:3-7; Gal 3:27-28* 

# **First**

#### Table

We break bread and take the cup every week to remember our life together in Christ. We welcome believers to the table of the Lord. The table is a place to proclaim those once far from God are brought near to God in Christ. We take the Lord's Supper to remember Jesus's body and blood. *Matthew* 26:26-29; I Corinthians 11:23-27; Acts 20:7

#### Groups

We all meet weekly in small groups to nurture the life of Christ by being with Jesus, doing what Jesus did, saying what Jesus taught, and going where Jesus leads.

Acts 2:42, 46-47; Matthew 18:20

# The Apostle's Creed

We believe in God the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to the dead; the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, until he comes to judge the living and the dead.

> We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal church of Jesus Christ, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.