



Truths We Hold Dear

MZ Weekday is a Christian program. All our teachers and staff are Christians and embody the truths we hold dear as the basic beliefs of the Christian faith. We teach Bible stories and verses that children can understand to build a foundation of knowledge and understanding of God's Word. We also teach love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control or "the fruit of the spirit" as referred to in Galatians 5:22-23. Depending on the Bible lesson, the truths may appear in what is taught at MZ Weekday. We do not require families who attend our program to share our beliefs. However, we feel it is important that they understand what we are a Christian ministry, and these truths are a part of our curriculum and culture.

God—God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three persons: the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God.

The Father—He is all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise. He reigns with providential care over the universe and the flow of history goes according to His purpose and plan.

Jesus Christ—He is the Son of God, co-equal with the Father, who has eternally existed and became man at His incarnation. He lived a sinless human life and offered himself as the sacrifice for sin by dying on a cross. He bodily arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven and will return to earth again to reign.

The Holy Spirit—He is the third person of the Trinity. He guides us in all truth, exalts Christ, convicts of sin, righteousness, and judgment, cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, bestows spiritual gifts by which believers serve God and seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the lives of believers is the assurance of God to bring us into the fullness of the stature of Christ.

The Scriptures—The Bible is the inspired Word of God—authoritative, infallible, and inerrant (without mixture of error). It is the supreme authority in all matters of faith and practice.

Human Beings—God created male and female in His image. All of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called sin. Sin separates us from God and causes many problems in life.

Family/Marriage—God made man and woman and created the first family. We believe that one man should be married to one woman.

Salvation—Salvation is God's free gift to us, but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our sin and to Jesus in faith we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ by faith.

Eternal Security—Because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the true believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. If you have been genuinely saved, you cannot "lose" your salvation. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives us this security.

Eternity—People will exist forever either separated from God by sin or with God through salvation. To be eternally separate from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence.

Tithing—Giving a tithe—ten percent of our income is the biblical standard. The tithe is to be given as an undesignated offering to the ministry of a local church. We are encouraged to give cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of God's mission on earth.

Evangelism—It is the duty of followers of Christ and the church to make disciples of all people. It is the command of Christ for every believer to win the lost to Christ by personal effort and by all other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

The Church—A local body of baptized believers who are associated by their common faith and fellowship with Jesus. A local church should observe the ordinances: (1) baptism and (2) the Lord's Supper and should exercise their God-given gifts to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. The church is an autonomous body serving under the Lordship of Christ. All members are equally responsible as they serve with the officers of the church.

Christian Unity—To live in harmony with other believers is the teaching of the New Testament. Every believer should endeavor to live in fellowship with one another. It is further the responsibility of each member to bring all gossiping and backbiting to an end.

The Ordinances

- **Baptism**—Christian baptism is the post-conversion immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, symbolizing the believer's faith in Jesus Christ. Baptism also symbolizes our crucified, buried, and risen Savior and the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus
- **The Lord's Supper**—The Lord's Supper or Communion is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the body of Christ, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of Jesus and anticipate His return.