

Introduction

Welcome to West Angeles Church of God in Christ! This four-session class will introduce you to our church, lay out our core beliefs, and help you understand how you can get involved. Pastor Charles Blake II is dedicated to supporting your spiritual growth and development, and we're excited to have you join us. Today's class covers the following three topics:

1. A Brief History of the Church of God in Christ
2. Eight Core Beliefs of Christianity
3. The God of the Bible

Topic 1: A Brief History of the Church of God in Christ

The Church of God in Christ (COGIC) was founded by Charles Harrison Mason and Charles Price Jones. After separating from the National Baptist Convention in 1896 over their belief in entire sanctification, they established a Holiness church that later became COGIC. In 1906, Mason attended the Azusa Street Revival, where he received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The following year, he incorporated COGIC as the first legally chartered Pentecostal denomination in the U.S. COGIC has since grown to become the largest Holiness-Pentecostal body in the U.S. and remains a dynamic force for evangelism, discipleship, and service, impacting communities worldwide.

West Angeles Church is the largest and most significant COGIC congregation. Founded in the 1960s, it became a cornerstone of the Los Angeles Crenshaw District. Under the leadership of Bishop Charles E. Blake, the church flourished, and Pastor Charles Blake II now continues the legacy of dynamic worship and unwavering commitment to biblical ministry.

Topic 2: Eight Core Beliefs of Christianity

Our faith is built on core beliefs that shape how we view God and live out our Christian life. These foundational truths unite all Christians and guide our daily walk with Jesus Christ. In this section, we will explore the essential beliefs that define our identity in Christ.

1. **The Bible:** The inspired and authoritative Word of God. (2 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 4:12)
2. **The Triune God:** One God in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14)
3. **Jesus' Death and Resurrection:** Jesus died for our sins and rose from the dead. (1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Romans 4:25)
4. **Salvation through Jesus:** Jesus is the only means of salvation, received through faith. (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 2:8-9)
5. **The Holy Spirit:** The third person of the Trinity, who empowers, guides, and sanctifies believers. (Acts 1:8; Galatians 5:22-23; John 16:13)
6. **The Church:** The community of believers, the body of Christ, called to worship and serve. (Ephesians 1:22-23; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14)
7. **The Second Coming:** Jesus will return to judge the living and the dead. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Matthew 24:30)
8. **Heaven and Eternal Life:** The promise of eternal life with God through Jesus. (John 3:16; Revelation 21:1-4)

Topic 3: The God of the Bible

The God we worship is unique in His nature and character. He is revealed in the Bible as one God in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This doctrine of the Trinity helps us better understand who God is and how we relate to Him in our daily lives.

- God is the Creator and Supreme Ruler of the universe who eternally exists in three persons: Father, Son, and Spirit (Trinity).
- God's name is YHWH. He is eternal, good, holy, etc.
- Jesus Christ is fully God and fully human. He is the Lord and Savior.
- The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity. He produces spiritual fruit within our lives and empowers us to do the work of ministry.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is sanctification?
2. What is Pentecostalism?
3. Why is Bible reading important?
4. How does a person receive salvation?
5. What role does each Person in the Trinity play in salvation?

Homework:

1. Peruse the West Angeles website to learn more about our church.
2. Look up and read the Scripture references in this handout.
3. Send an email to Dr. Wilfred Graves.

Connect with West Angeles Church

- Website: <https://westa.org>
- Email: hello@westa.org
- Phone: (323) 733 – 8300
- To contact Dr. Wilfred Graves Jr., who is teaching this class, you may call the main church number or send an email directly to him at wgraves@westa.org.