Pre-Membership Class Guide

(Simple, one or two-hour class)

1. **Introductions** (5 minutes)
   1. Let those present introduce themselves and share some information about themselves.
   2. The leader(s) takes a moment to introduce himself and thank those present for attending.
   3. The leader should briefly explain why the class is important.
2. **Our Church’s Beliefs** (10-15 minutes)
   1. What we believe about Scripture
   2. What we believe about salvation
      1. How to be saved (Not just the facts, but an evangelistic gospel presentation)
      2. Assurance of salvation (potential sticking point for those from other denominations)
   3. What we believe about baptism
3. **Our Church’s Purpose** (5-10 minutes)
   1. Why THE Church exists (What should all churches be doing?)
   2. Why THIS church exists (What is your church’s strategy?)
4. **Our Church’s Ministries** (10 minutes)
   1. Classes/groups that prospects and new members can become part of
   2. Church schedule (include meals, annual events, 5th Sundays, Lord’s Supper, etc.)
   3. Opportunities for service (ministry teams, entry level positions of service, etc.)
   4. [Also consider miscellaneous information that you might assume everyone knows about—financial info, organizational info, etc.]
5. **The Importance of Membership (5 minutes)**
6. Why is membership important in your church?
7. Be certain to know the answer to this question before scheduling the class!
8. **Tour of Facilities** OR **Brief History of the Church** OR **Southern Baptist Methodology** (10 minutes)
9. **How to Join Our Church** (5 minutes)

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

* *What will we call it?* [A suggested title would be “Discovering \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (church name)”]
* *When will we offer it?*
  + Usually the best time to offer the class is during the Sunday School hour.
  + The church has the option of making it a two-hour class which would allow a more thorough examination of the above topics. Below is a proposed schedule for a two-hour class:
    - Session one (during Sunday School)…morning worship…lunch…session two
    - [NOTE: childcare would need to be provided during the second session.]
* *Will it be mandatory or recommended for membership?*
  + We suggest simply saying, “If you are interested in joining our church, we invite you to attend our one-hour “Discovering \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” class which meets the first Sunday of every month at \_\_\_\_\_\_. At that time you will learn about our church and about how to join it.”
* Feel free to adjust or expand the content to fix your church setting (multi-week class, interview, etc.)