

**Home Team Study**  
6 SESSIONS

# BETTER TOGETHER



**Home Teams**

**“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”**

**HEBREWS 10:24-26**

This notebook belongs to:



If found, please return  
to any Pathway Church campus

[pathwaychurch.com/locations](https://pathwaychurch.com/locations)

# BETTER TOGETHER

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# Thanks so much for starting the Home Team journey at Pathway!



You may be coming into this experience with a lot of different thoughts. Some of you may be here because someone you love made you come. Or you may be here and be worried that you're in over your head. Others of you may be thinking you don't know enough about Jesus or the Bible and you aren't good enough.

Let me assure you that everyone around you is unfinished. Each of you have hurts, habits, and hang-ups that God wants to work on and He'll use the group experience to do just that.

Make sure to fully participate in your Home Team. Anyone who has been around Pathway Church for any length of time will tell you that being in a Home Team is where their faith became more real. It's where they truly learned how to live out the life of a fully-devoted Christ follower with others.

In this six-session study, you'll be introduced to our four key values for what makes a healthy group work: **spiritual growth**, **relationships**, **impacting**, and **inviting**. Then, you'll share your spiritual story and hear from others in your own Home Team!

Let me encourage you to make a commitment to the Home Team you are joining today. Be faithful and take the journey seriously. If you do, I promise that your life will never be the same.

  
**Todd Carter**, Lead Pastor

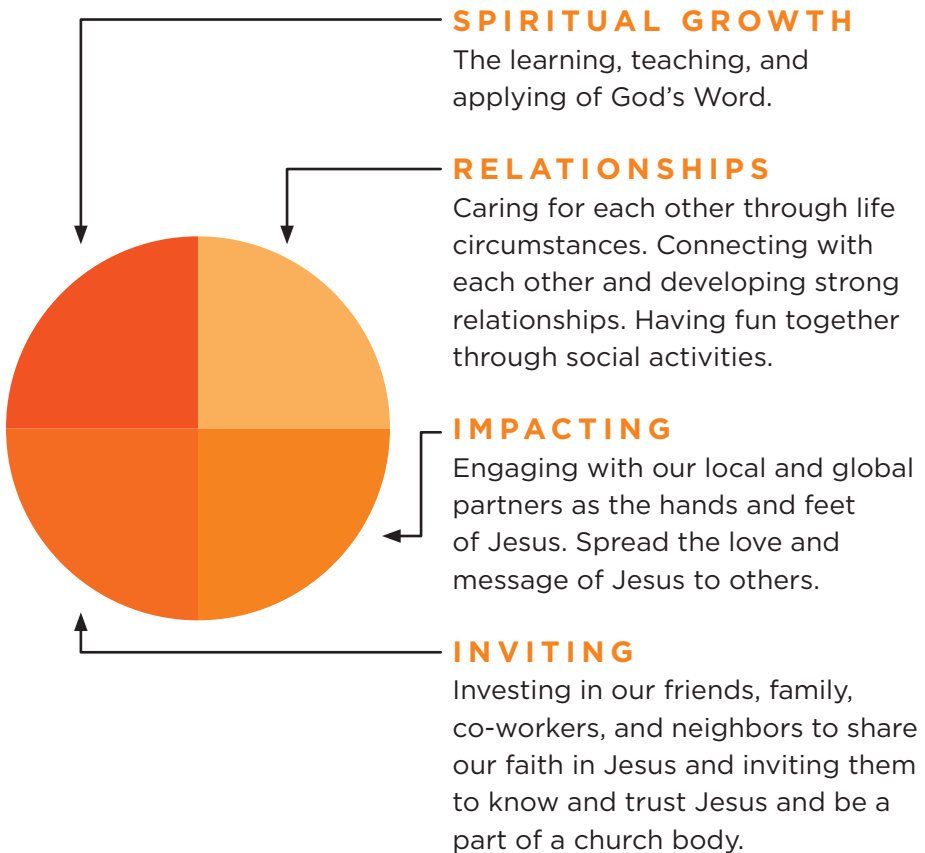
HOME TEAMS VISION:

**For 100% of adults  
at Pathway to  
engage in Home  
Teams and help one  
another connect  
people to Jesus to  
help them become  
His fully-devoted  
followers.**



# HOME TEAM VALUES

Our goal is to create thriving small groups that are intentionally building healthy, balanced environments with four key foundations to help grow people into fully-devoted followers of Jesus.







# THE BIGGER PICTURE

The most effective way to become a more fully-devoted follower at Pathway Church is to make sure that your Home Team experience is aligned with the message in our **weekend services**. If you miss a weekend, you can catch up at [pathwaychurch.com/messages](https://pathwaychurch.com/messages)

The **Discussion Guide** for your Home Team is written each week, based on the message from the previous weekend. You can pick up the guide at your campus every weekend or find it at [pathwaychurch.com/messages](https://pathwaychurch.com/messages) under each weekend and on the Pathway App.

Our weekday **Daily Devotionals** are written specifically to compliment the weekend messages and are available at [pathwaychurch.com/devotionals](https://pathwaychurch.com/devotionals) or on the Pathway App.

When you allow the Bible to speak to you through the shared journey of these three elements—the message in our **weekend services**, the **Discussion Guide** in your Home Team, and the Pathway **Daily Devotional**—you have the best opportunity for making significant application of the concepts and the scriptures each week. It also brings synergy that causes movement towards greater and more powerful life-transformation as a disciple of Jesus with people in your Home Team and in our entire church.



BETTER  
TOGETHER



# Home Team Discussion Guide

# Session 1

## We Are Better Together

*Dr. Todd Carter, Lead Pastor*

### 🕒 **Big Idea**

God wants us to follow Jesus together—we're better together!

### 📄 **Discuss Icebreaker Question**

### ▶ **Watch Session 1 Video**

### 📄 **Read, Discuss, and Journal Answers**

## Video Notes:

**Icebreaker:** What is one reason that you are excited to be in a Home Team?

# Watch Session 1:

**Opening Question:** What stood out to you in this week's teaching? Discuss as a group.

## Read:

### **ACTS 2:42-47** NIV

*<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

## In the Word:

1. In what ways were the believers devoted to one another in Acts 2? What is the difference between being devoted and going through the motions?

## **In the Word** (continued):

2. How do you think God viewed this group of early Christians? What impact did they have on their community?

## **Making It Personal:**

1. Spend time discussing as a group how to specifically grow in devotion to God and one another (learning together, serving together, caring for each other, practicing generosity together, reaching out together, etc.).
2. What barriers keep your Home Team from being more devoted to one another and to God? How can those barriers be minimized?
3. We discussed the impact that the early Christians had on their community. In today's culture, what impact would a group similar to this one have on each other and their community?

4. Pastor Carter talked about bringing your unique gifts and strengths to benefit and bless others. Spend some time discussing what individual gifts and strengths you have and how those could benefit the Home Team and others.

5. How well does your group function in valuing and including everyone in the group? In what ways is this a growth area?

**Pray:**

- As we begin this series, pray for God to work in your Home Team to become like the group of believers in Acts 2.
- Pray for all Pathway Home Teams to please God, love others, and to show and share Jesus to the community.

# Session 2

## Growing Spiritually Together

*Todd Hutchison, Westlink Campus Pastor*

### 🕒 **Big Idea**

God wants us to take His Word to heart and apply it to our lives as we become fully-devoted followers of Jesus.

### 📄 **Discuss Icebreaker Question**

### ▶ **Watch Session 2 Video**

### 📄 **Read, Discuss, and Journal Answers**

## Video Notes:

**Icebreaker:** If you could have any one super power, what would you choose?



## Watch Session 2, Part 1:

**Opening Question:** Have you ever tried to grow spiritually without community? How successful were you?

## Watch Session 2, Part 2:

**Opening Question:** What stood out to you in this week's teaching? Discuss as a group.

### Read:

#### **2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 NIV**

*<sup>16</sup>All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

#### **JOHN 10:10 ESV**

*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*

#### **JAMES 1:22-25 NIV**

*<sup>22</sup>Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. <sup>23</sup>Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror <sup>24</sup>and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. <sup>25</sup>But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.*

## **In the Word:**

1. God's Word is our road map. What are examples of how His Word is used for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness? What does it mean to be equipped for every good work?
2. John 10:10 talks about a rich and satisfying life. What does a rich and satisfying life look like for a fully-devoted follower of Jesus?
3. How does reading, listening, memorizing, or talking about God's Word without applying it to our lives affect us? How does it affect others around us?

## **Making It Personal:**

1. Before you can be doers of God's Word, you have to be learners of God's Word. What are some best practices your Home Team can implement to learn God's Word?

2. How can your group incorporate God's Word to correct and train each other so that you are thoroughly equipped for God's plan in your life?

3. Brainstorm best practices that your group can adopt to be doers of God's Word and not just learners.

**Pray:**

- Pray that Jesus would be the leader of your group, God's Word would be the road map, and that you would be transformed by them as you become fully-devoted followers of Jesus.
- Pray that the best practices you listed would live beyond pen and paper and that you would incorporate them into the life of your group.

# Session 3

## Impacting and Inviting Together

*Rodney Elliott, Goddard Campus Pastor*

### 🕒 **Big Idea**

God wants us to use our God-given gifts to spread the love and message of Jesus to others.

### 📄 **Discuss Icebreaker Question**

### ▶ **Watch Session 3 Video**

### 📄 **Read, Discuss, and Journal Answers**

## Video Notes:

**Icebreaker:** What is a quirky or unusual fear you have?

# Watch Session 3, Part 1:

**Opening Question:** What stood out to you in Part 1 of this week's teaching? Discuss as a group.

## Read:

### **MATTHEW 28:18-20**

*<sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

## In the Word:

1. In what ways do Jesus' last instructions to His disciples guide them to go outside themselves and impact the local and global community around them?
2. Why is having impact in our community so far out of our normal comfort zone? What encouragement does Jesus give to help us push beyond our comfort zone?

## **Making It Personal:**

1. Impacting the community takes action and a “go” mentality. Stop by the For Others wall at your campus to see various opportunities in your area. Have everyone in your group look for opportunities to serve in their neighborhoods and schools. How will your Home Team engage in impacting the community over the next four months?

## **Watch Session 3, Part 2:**

**Opening Question:** What stood out to you in Part 2 of this week’s teaching? Discuss as a group.

## **In the Word:**

1. Read Matthew 28:18-20 again. What is the invitation that Jesus offers?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How do we, as followers of Jesus, join Him in inviting others?

## **Making It Personal:**

1. Inviting is the core of Jesus' message. His Good News is something that's so good we can't keep it to ourselves. Make a list of people that need a personal invitation to church or a Home Team and commit to praying for them as a group. How can your group encourage the boldness of invitation?
3. What will the impact of this group look like in 2018? Go around the room and talk about things you would like to do together.

## **Pray:**

- Pray for opportunities and direction from God as to how your group can impact the local and global community.
- Pray for those in your community who you are feeling led to invite to church or Home Team.

# Session 4:

## Building Relationships Together

*Dr. Steve Slack, Former Teaching Pastor*

### 🕒 **Big Idea**

God wants us to build strong relationships as we care for each other, encourage each other, and have fun together.

### 📄 **Discuss Icebreaker Question**

### ▶ **Watch Session 4 Video**

### 📄 **Read, Discuss, and Journal Answers**

## Video Notes:

**Icebreaker:** As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up and why?



## Watch Session 4, Part 1:

**Opening Question:** What are some experiences you've had as part of this group or another group, where you cared for each other, had fun together, supported each other, or prayed for each other?

## Watch Session 4, Part 2:

**Opening Question:** What stood out to you in this week's teaching? Discuss as a group.

### Read:

#### **ROMANS 1:11-12** NCV

*<sup>11</sup> I want very much to see you, to give you some spiritual gift to make you strong. <sup>12</sup> I mean that I want us to help each other with the faith we have. Your faith will help me, and my faith will help you.*

#### **ACTS 2:42-47** NCV

*<sup>42</sup> They spent their time learning the apostles' teaching, sharing, breaking bread, and praying together. <sup>43</sup> The apostles were doing many miracles and signs, and everyone felt great respect for God. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and shared everything. <sup>45</sup> They would sell their land and the things they owned and then divide the money and give it to anyone who needed it. <sup>46</sup> The believers met together in the Temple every day. They ate together in their homes, happy to share their food with joyful hearts. <sup>47</sup> They praised God and were liked by all the people. Every day the Lord added those who were being saved to the group of believers.*

## Read “One Another” Commands:

### **GALATIANS 6:2 ESV**

*Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*

### **1 THESSALONIANS 5:11 ESV**

*Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.*

### **EPHESIANS 4:32 NASB**

*Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.*

### **PHILIPPIANS 2:3 NASB**

*Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves.*

### **ROMANS 14:13 NIV**

*Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.*

### **MARK 9:50 NIV**

*Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt among yourselves, and be at peace with each other.*

### **JAMES 5:16 NIV**

*Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.*

### **In the Word:**

1. In Romans 1, what do you think Paul meant when he said, “your faith will help me and my faith will help you also?” In your group, how can mutual faith be an encouragement?
2. In Acts 2, what was attractive about this new church to the people outside the church? How would you describe their relationships?
3. Look again at the “One Another” commands and focus on three to five of them that are most needed in the church, Home Team, and in our community.

### **Making It Personal:**

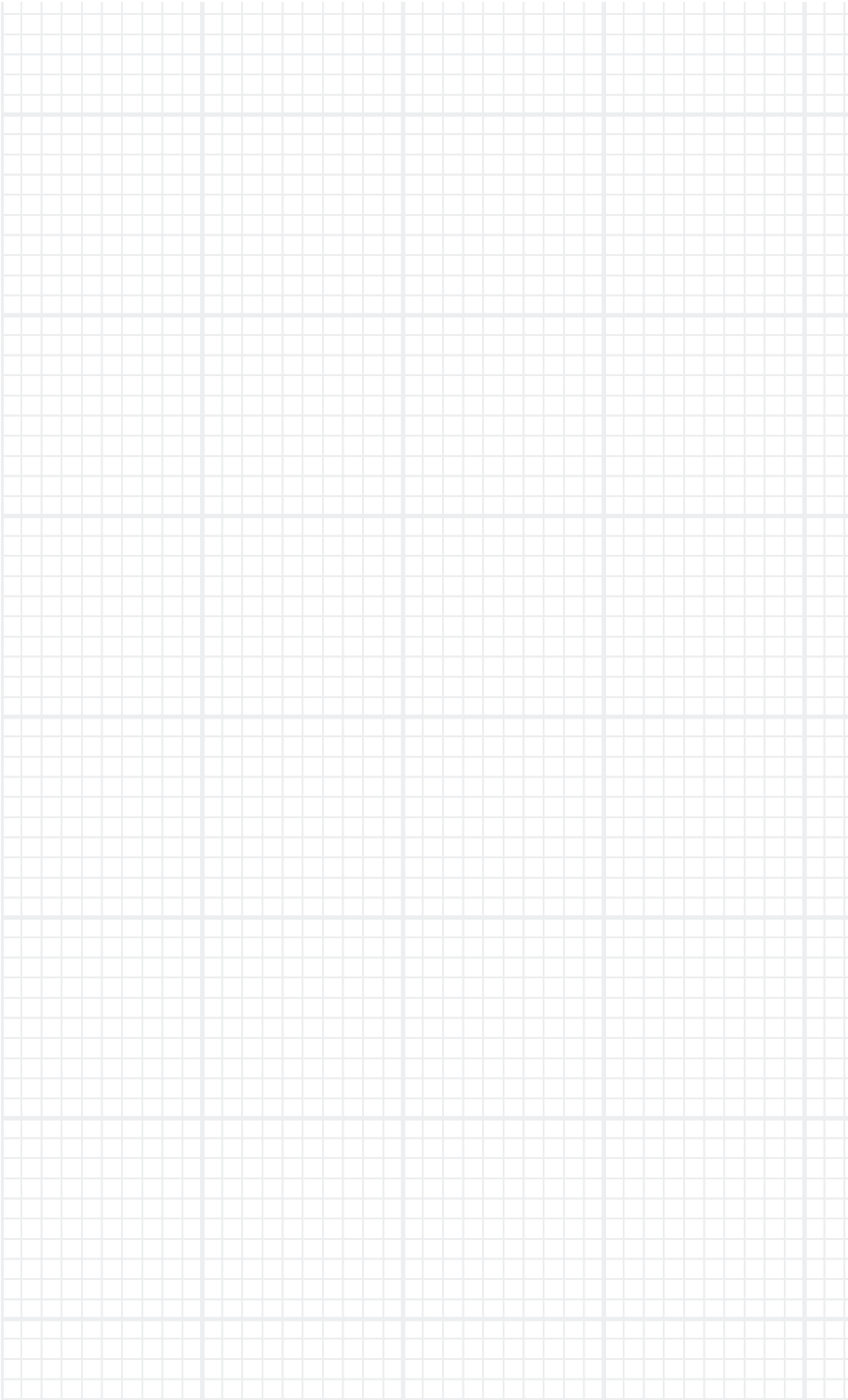
1. As a group, spend some time specifically brainstorming how to encourage each other a regular basis. Discuss how you can intentionally care for one another.

## **Making it Personal** (continued):

2. Choose a “One Another” command and personally commit to taking growth steps in that area in the coming week.  
Report back to the group.
  
3. In the weeks ahead, what could your group do to become even “better together” (time, activities, serving together)?  
Make a plan as a group.

## **Pray:**

- Spend some time actually encouraging one another in your group—express appreciation for everyone who is part of your group.
  
- Pray for the relationships inside and outside of your group to grow and to make an impact in the church and in the community.





# Sessions 5 & 6

## Share Your Story

### 🕒 **Big Idea**

Sharing how God is moving in your life honors Him and inspires others.

### 🗨️ **Journal Your Story and Share**

In Sessions 5 & 6, you and your Home Team members will share your personal stories of how God is moving in your life. Sharing your personal spiritual story will help others understand you and your journey as well as help you better understand yourself!

### **Write:**

Use the space on pages 32 & 33 to write out events that helped shape your story. Use the information on the following pages to help you know where to focus and how to share.

### **Share:**

Your Home Team leader will share first and then create a schedule allowing time for everyone to share their personal story for 10-15 minutes.

*This process should take approximately two weeks and conclude the six-session Better Together study.*

**Bonus points:** If you're feeling extra bold, share your story on social media and use the hashtag: **#PATHWAYSTORIES**

# STORIES BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

*Don't worry that others will see your life as boring. Many people are surprised to find that others are encouraged or moved by what you perceive as uneventful and normal. Take time to think and prepare.*

*The most important question to focus on is:*

**“WILL THIS HELP OTHERS UNDERSTAND  
HOW AND WHY I GOT TO WHERE I AM  
TODAY IN MY SPIRITUAL JOURNEY?”**

## **Why is telling my story important?**

- The goal is to help others understand how you arrived at the spiritual point you're at now: people, relationships, situations, and events. Spiritually and personally, why are you the person you are?
- Your story may give you new insights that you had not previously realized. Putting your experiences into words often helps you think more clearly about your own life. Learn to trust each other and give permission for the listeners to interpret what they hear in stories. Sometimes someone else will see influences, issues, and trends that you won't.
- Don't expect this to be easy. It's easy to ramble, digress, and include interesting but irrelevant information that isn't helpful to understand you better.
- You may find that your spiritual journey has been very gradual (you may perceive it as “uneventful”) while other stories focus on big changes. Don't worry that others will see your story as boring—both are very beneficial and relevant.



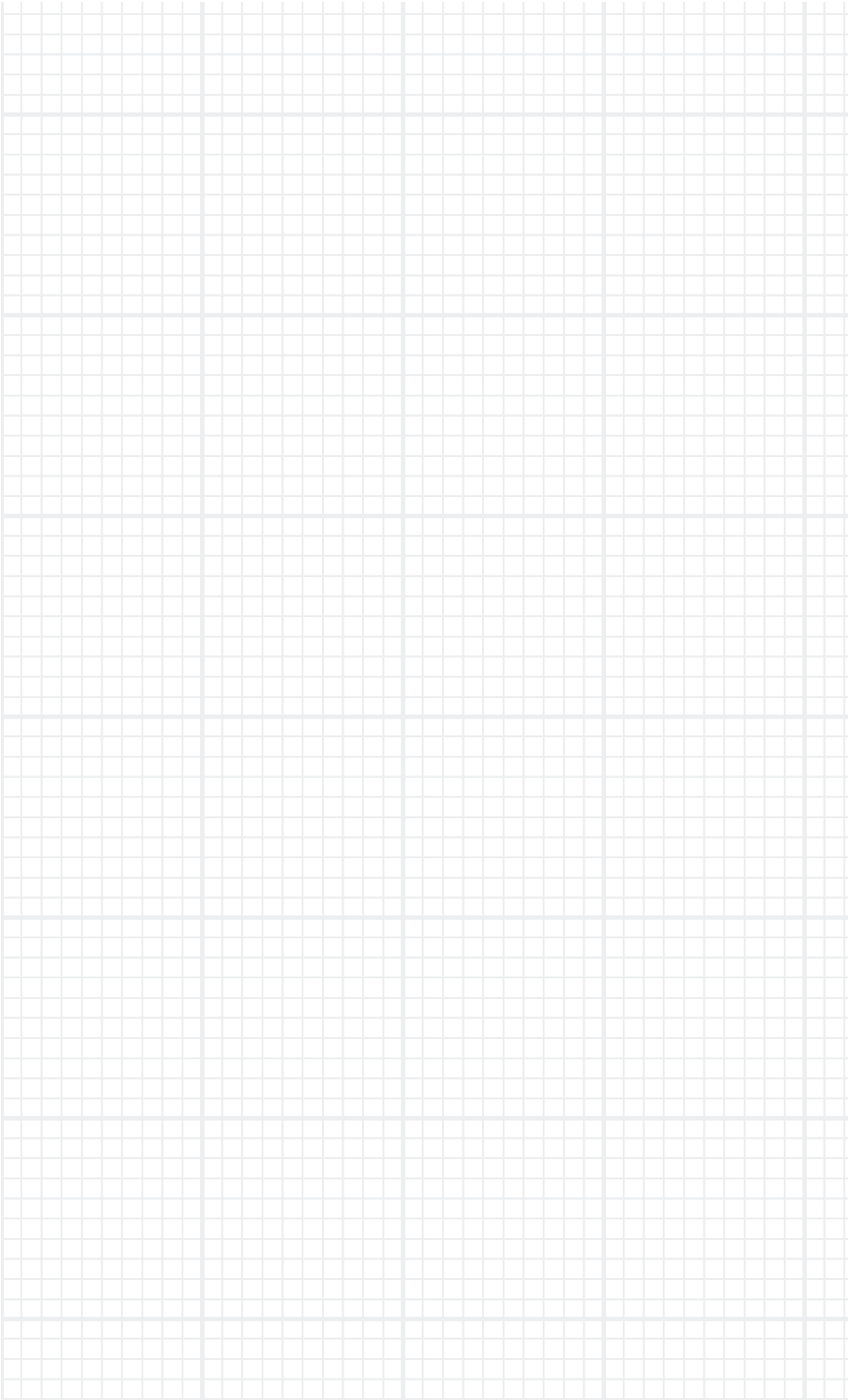
## How should I tell my story?

- Prepare before you speak! Start by identifying the most important highs and lows of your life, the most important people, good or bad decisions and changes, and mistakes or times you ignored God.
  - For some, these may be very big, one-time events and clearly stand out as pivotal.
  - For others, focus on long-term events or relationships that were most important (a long history of going to church or youth group, a grandparent who constantly encouraged year after year, a teacher at school who was a Christian, etc).
- Ask yourself “What impact did these events and people have on me? How did they influence the direction of my life? What impact did this have on me spiritually?” These influences may be good, bad, painful, or joyful!
- Before you speak, review your story and refer back to the most important question on the previous page: “Will this help others understand how and why I got to where I am today in my spiritual journey?” If it doesn’t answer this question, refine it or remove it.

## Common life-changing events that might kick-start your own story:

1. Talking about life plans with a family member
2. Experiencing abuse and struggling with anger
3. Attending a funeral of someone close
4. Receiving a message from a respected teacher
5. Dealing with heartbreak, brokenness, or shame
6. Beginning a new relationship or marriage
7. Attending church (or not) as a child

# MY STORY:







# Home Team Covenant

Read through the Home Team Covenant as a group, provided by your leader. Discuss the listed values and goals. Fill out the form together and sign the covenant as a Home Team.

Use this agreement to guide your group in the future and help us accomplish our Home Team vision; “for 100% of adults at Pathway to engage in Home Teams and help one another connect people to Jesus to help them become His fully-devoted followers.”

# NOTES & PRAYERS





pathwaychurch

FOLLOWING JESUS • IN COMMUNITY • FOR OTHERS

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