

# Life Group Guide

## Welcome to the Community: Next Steps in Your Faith Journey

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### Overview

This guide is designed to help your small group reflect on the practical and spiritual dimensions of beginning or recommitting to a life of faith within a church community. Whether members are brand new to following Jesus or returning after a season away, these discussions will help ground everyone in the importance of community, growth, and active participation in the body of Christ.

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### Key Takeaways

- Coming to faith in Jesus Christ is an individual decision, but living out that faith is meant to happen in community with other believers.
  - Growth Track, small groups, and regular church attendance are three concrete ways to build a foundation for lasting spiritual growth.
  - The church is not something we observe passively. Every believer is a participant, not a spectator.
  - When believers gather together, the Holy Spirit works in ways that cannot be replicated in isolation.
  - God desires to use each person's life and gifts to minister to others, including those who do not yet know Him.
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### Discussion Questions

#### Opening

1. Think back to when you first decided to follow Jesus, or to a moment when your faith became more personal and real to you. What was that experience like, and who was around you when it happened?
  2. Before becoming part of a church community, what did you think church was mostly about? How has your understanding changed over time?
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## Digging In

3. Pastor Chris says that even though we make an individual decision to follow Jesus, we are called into a community to live out that faith. Why do you think God designed faith to be lived out alongside other people rather than alone?
  4. Hebrews 10:24-25 encourages believers not to give up meeting together, emphasizing that gathering strengthens and encourages one another. In what ways have you personally experienced the encouragement that comes from being with other believers?
  5. Pastor Chris describes the Christian life as being "like breathing, breathing God in, breathing him out." What does that image mean to you, and how does community help make that kind of rhythm possible?
  6. He also says, "We are not spectators. We are participants." What is the difference between attending church as a spectator and showing up as a participant? What does participation actually look like in your daily life?
  7. Small groups are described as a place where believers talk about the Word, pray for one another, and grow in their understanding of the Lord together. What has been your experience with small groups, positive or challenging, and what would make your small group feel more like that kind of community?
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## Personal Reflection

8. Pastor Chris mentions that God wants to use your life to reach people who are hurting or who do not yet know Him. Have you ever been in a position where someone else's faith or presence helped point you toward God? What did that mean to you?
  9. Is there an area of your spiritual life, prayer, reading Scripture, gathering with believers, or serving others, where you feel the most room to grow right now? What is one honest step you could take this week toward that area?
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## Practical Applications

- **Growth Track:** If you have not yet gone through Growth Track, commit to starting with Step One on the first Sunday of next month. If you have already completed it, consider how you might encourage someone newer in their faith to take that step.
- **Small Groups:** If you are not currently in a small group, use the church app or speak with a ministry leader this week to find one that fits your season of life. If you are already in one, reflect on how you can show up more fully, not just in attendance but in openness and contribution.
- **Regular Attendance:** Evaluate your current pattern of gathering with your church community. Identify one specific obstacle that keeps you from attending consistently and bring it to your group for prayer and accountability.

- **Prayer and the Word:** Download or access the prayer and Scripture resource mentioned in the sermon through the church app. Set aside a specific time each day this week to use it, even if only for a few minutes.
  - **Accountability:** Pair up with one other person in your group this week. Check in with each other before the next meeting about one spiritual habit you each committed to practicing.
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## **Closing Prayer Focus**

Close your group time by praying together over the following:

- Gratitude for the community God has placed you in
- Those in your group who are newer to faith or returning after a long time away
- Open hearts to move from spectating to participating in the life of the church
- People in your lives who are hurting or who do not yet know Jesus