

A group of people are seated around a table in a room, possibly a dining area or a meeting space. The image is overlaid with a green tint and several vertical bars of varying heights and positions. The text 'Growth Track' is prominently displayed in the upper center.

# Growth Track

*step***TWO**  
Find Fellowship

# OUR DESIRE FOR YOU

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*“We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, **so that you also may have fellowship with us.** And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.”*

1 John 1:3

**We encourage you to enjoy wonderful fellowship with God and His People:** deepening your fellowship with the Lord, as well making new friends and developing meaningful personal relationships. We want you—AND your family and friends—to **feel more than welcome to participate with us in the following opportunities for fellowship...**

## **I. Fellowship With God (and Others):**

- ❖ **Weekly** - every Sunday: ***Worship & Word Celebration.***
- ❖ **Monthly** - first Wednesdays: ***Deeper Life Gathering.***

## **II. Fellowship With One Another (and God):**

- ❖ **Weekly** - semester-based ***Small Groups.***
- ❖ **Occasionally** - ***Activity Groups*** and ***Special Events.***

## I. FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD (and Others), in: *Weekly Sunday Celebrations and First Wednesday Gatherings.*

IT IS VITAL each of us is **experientially connected** with Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit in our worship. Also, two of our greatest responsibilities are: **loving each other** and **reaching people** who do not know Jesus. Therefore, **our weekend services are for all people in various stages of their spiritual journey—AS WELL AS those who do not know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.**

Our Sunday celebrations and Wednesday gatherings\* focus on four values:

1. \_\_\_\_\_—we believe church should be enjoyable.

*“I was glad when they said to me,  
‘Let us go into the house of the Lord.’”*

Psalm 122:1 NKJV

2. \_\_\_\_\_—we believe church should be a place where people experience God’s presence.

*“But...when some unbelievers or ordinary people come in, they will be convinced of their sin by what they hear. They will be judged by all they hear, their secret thoughts will be brought into the open, and they will bow down and worship God, confessing, ‘Truly God is here among you!’”*

1 Corinthians 14:24-25 GNT

**\*NOTE:** *Deeper Life Gatherings* are more intense in both Worship and Word. Guests are very welcome, but should understand the intention is for those who would like to “go deep” into God’s presence and into the Scriptures. *Weekend Worship Celebrations* are not quite as intense because they are purposely tailored for our Guests.

3. \_\_\_\_\_—we believe church should be a place where people learn how the Bible applies to their lives.

*“Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.” And, “Preach the word...correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.”*

Acts 20:32 and 2 Timothy 4:2

4. \_\_\_\_\_—we believe church should be a place where people can make a fresh start and get to “Know God” better.

*“Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But who can ask him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?”*

Romans 10:13-14 TLB

## Sharing Christ With Others

One of our primary purposes is to reach people who are unconnected to God and His Church. Every one of us can do our part to invite people into our fellowship by following these five principles of personal evangelism:

1. Embrace the \_\_\_\_\_ of being Christ's “power witnesses.”

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth..”*

Acts 1:8

2. Build a personal \_\_\_\_\_ with others to show your love.

*“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. **By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.**”*

John 13:34-35

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### 3. Find \_\_\_\_\_ with all kinds of people.

*“...I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.”*

1 Corinthians 9:22

### 4. Share your \_\_\_\_\_ gently and respectfully.

*“...**Always be prepared** to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason of the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...”*

1 Peter 3:15

### 5. Give an urgent \_\_\_\_\_ to fellowship with us.

*“...Go out to the roads and country lanes and **compel them to come in**, so that my house will be full.”*

Luke 14:23

**Reach out** to your circle of old and new friends—and family members. **Share your testimony AND and invite them to attend:** *Sunday Worship Celebrations, First Wednesday Deeper Life Gatherings, Small Groups* or various church *Activity Groups* and *Special Events*. **God will use our efforts to help someone begin a new—or revive an old—relationship with Him!**

## HERE'S EVEN MORE YOU CAN DO...

- \_\_\_\_\_ to reach people with the Good News of Jesus.

*“Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’”*

Matthew 9:37-38

- \_\_\_\_\_ to everyone, everywhere, to tell them God’s message.

*“...Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.”*

Mark 16:15

- \_\_\_\_\_ your time and resources to reach people for Christ.

*“...I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls...”*

2 Corinthians 12:15 NKJV

## II. FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHERS (and God), in: *Small Groups, Activity Groups and Special Events*

We believe **real life change happens in the context of relationships**. We are a church made up of various kinds of people meeting in various places. We meet in our church building, in homes and other places in our community.

*“You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house.”*

Acts 20:20

### *Our Groups And Events Provide Four Benefits:*

**1. Opportunities to \_\_\_\_\_ with one another.**

*“Be devoted to one another in love...” And, “Live in harmony with one another.” And, “Accept one another as Christ accepted you.”*

Romans 12:10, 16 and 15:7

**2. Opportunities to \_\_\_\_\_ one another.**

*“...Encourage one another and build one another up...” And, “...Encourage each other. Live in harmony and peace. Then the God of love and peace will be with you....”*

1 Thessalonians 5:11 and 2 Corinthians 13:11 NLT

**3. Opportunities to \_\_\_\_\_ with one another.**

*“...Christ...is the head and we are the body. We can grow up healthy in God only as he nourishes us.”*

Colossians 2:19 MESSAGE

**4. Opportunities to \_\_\_\_\_ with one another.**

*“...When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.”*

1 Corinthians 14:26



*“...Offer hospitality to one another...”*

1 Peter 4:9

## **Our Amazing *Small Groups*:**

A *Small Group* is an intentional gathering of people who connect with each other on a regular basis. *Small Groups* are formed with people who:

- share similar interests,
- are at a similar stage in life, or
- would like to grow in an area in which group leaders and members have helpful experience.

Our *Small Groups* meet once a week—on a Semester basis—in locations all around our area. With so many groups to choose from, we are confident there is a group that will appeal to you. *Small Groups* are also where we pray, promote the Bible and care for one another.

## About Our *Small Groups*:

### 1. Groups are “\_\_\_\_\_.”

Free Market simply means group leaders are free to use their gifts and interests to choose when, and where, their groups meet...and what they meet about. From sports groups and lunch groups—to Bible studies and coffee meet-ups—our groups are as varied as we are.

### 2. Groups are held during three “\_\_\_\_\_” yearly.

Life flows in seasons, and we want to make it easy for you to be in the right *Small Group* for you in each season of your life. This is why we have new groups that start and stop three times a year in what we refer to as Seasonal Semesters. They are:

- **Winter/Spring** (February-March)
- **Summer** (June-July)
- **Fall** (September-October)

### 3. You can be involved in \_\_\_ or \_\_\_ *Small Groups*.

We would love for you to get connected in at least one *Small Group*. To find the right group(s) for you, simply **visit the Small Groups Sign Up table in the lobby**. Once you find groups that interest you, you may like to contact the group leader to learn more about the group, or make plans to visit the group in person. You may start or stop going to a group any time.

### 4. You can be a \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_, a *Small Group*.

We believe everyone has areas of strength and gifting that can benefit others. Hosting a group in your home, or leading a *Small Group*, is a great way to be a blessing to others. The first step toward becoming a *Small Group Leader* is attending a *Small Group Leadership Training* session. They are made available throughout the year in classes and/or on **The Believers App, Media, Small Groups** section.

## Your Invitation to Membership

An important part of **Christian fellowship** has to do with becoming a member of the **Body of Christ**. We welcome those who are new—or experienced—Christians to become part of our local body of believers. **We spiritually become part of our Lord’s Body when we are baptized into it:**

*“Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body...” And, “Now you are the body of Christ, and each of you is a part of it.”*

1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 27

*“...So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.”*

Romans 12:5

## Membership Affirmations

**We invite you to become a member of our local church** in hopes you will commit yourself to the following scriptural principles and practices...

**1. I will protect the \_\_\_\_\_ of my church, by:**

- **being in harmony with other members.**

*“So let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony, and on the growth of our fellowship together.”*

Romans 14:19 PHILLIPS

- **building others up with positive conversation.**

*“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs.”*

Ephesians 4:29

- **cooperatively following our leaders.**

*“Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.”*

Hebrews 13:17

2. I will share the \_\_\_\_\_ of my church, by:

- **praying for its growth and health.**

*“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.”*

Ephesians 6:18

- **inviting the unchurched to attend.**

*“Go out into the country...and urge anyone you find to come in, so that the house will be full.”*

Luke 14:23 TLB

- **warmly welcoming those who visit.**

*“So, warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified.”*

Romans 15:7 TLB

3. I will serve the \_\_\_\_\_ of my church, by:

- **discovering and using my spiritual gifts and natural talents.**

*“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”*

1 Peter 4:10

- **allowing my spiritual leaders to prepare me to serve others.**

*“Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.”*

Ephesians 4:11-13

- **developing a servant’s heart.**

*“Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus...taking the form of a bondservant...”*

Philippians 2:4-5, 7 NKJV

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4. I will support the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of my church, by:
- **living a godly life, free from impropriety, immorality and intoxication.**  
*“But whatever happens, make sure that your everyday life is worthy of the Gospel of Christ.”*  
Philippians 1:27 PHILLIPS
  - **attending worship services and various fellowship groups faithfully.**  
*“Let us not give up the habit of meeting together as some are doing.”*  
Hebrews 10:25 GNT
  - **giving regularly and generously as God has prospered me.**  
*“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”*  
2 Corinthians 9:7

**Above all, we want you to feel like you are loved and belong here, regardless of ethnicity, affiliation or age. We hope you’ll feel as if you are “coming home.” We would like you to partner with us to make others feel exceptionally welcome in our church family! If you would like to join us as we fellowship with God and others, please obtain and complete a *Membership Packet\**. Also review *Personal Belief Systems\**.**

### NOTE:

It is important to recognize Believers Church is a “Multi-Cultural, Multi-Generational, Multi-Denominational” church. This means we must lovingly understand and accept people from various backgrounds and traditions while maintaining our unity in Christ based on God’s eternal, never-changing, Word. Our attitudes, doctrines and speech should reflect these concepts. For example, if the Bible says a lot about a subject, we should say a lot. If it says a little about a subject, we should say a little. If it says nothing about a subject, we should say nothing. Using words and phrases not found in scripture has historically been the cause of much division among God’s People. We want to be careful to avoid unbiblical terms and terminology.

*\*Download **Membership Packet** and **Personal Belief Systems** supplement PDFs from: **The Believers App, Media, Growth Track, Step Two** section.*

# NextSteps

## Find Fellowship

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### 1. **Get involved in our various fellowship groups as desired.**

Make new friends IN the church...and bring new friends TO the church. You—and your friends and family—are welcome here! Bring someone with you to attend any or all: *Worship Celebrations* and *Deeper Life Gatherings*; *Activity Groups* and *Special Events*. **Especially...**

### 2. **Join a *Small Group* according to your preferences.**

Visit our *Small Group Sign Up* table in the lobby. Find a group that interests you, contact the leader and/or make plans to try it out. You'll make some new friends and be enriched!

### 3. **Consider becoming a member of *The Believers Church*.**

It's not about adding your name to a roster. It's about connecting with the people and vision of our Christian fellowship. Pray about accepting our invitation to become a member of our local body of believers. Complete the *Membership Packet*. Also, enjoy our *Personal Belief Systems* flyer regarding maintaining unity in our "Multi-Cultural, Multi-Generational, Multi-Denominational" church.

**Download this session's important supplementary PDFs from: *The Believers App*, Media section, including...**

*Membership Packet, Personal Belief Systems*