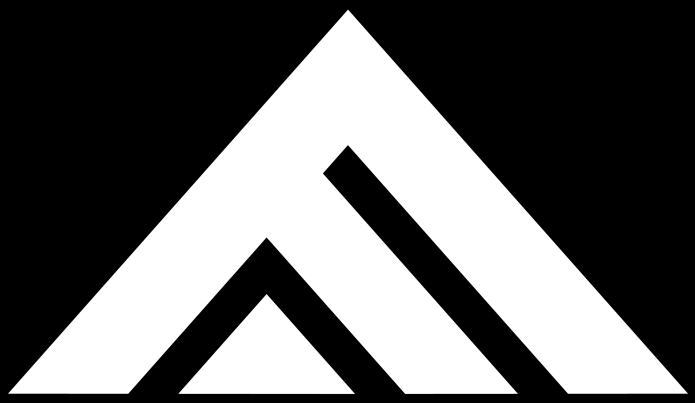

FAITH
CHURCH

CONNECTCLASS


YONKERS



PASTOR ROB & KRISTA
Lead Pastor

I am so honored you decided to join us for our Connect Class! Through this class you will learn more about who we are, what we believe, and why we exist. My prayer is that during this class, you will grow in your appreciation for the good news of the gospel, the necessity of community, and the centrality of the mission of God. I am so glad you're here, and I look forward to getting to know you as we connect to God's story together.

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CONNECT
TO GOD



In part one we will cover:

- How to have a genuine relationship with God.
- What is the gospel?
- Essential habits of a growing Christian.
- Environments we create to help people know God.
- The importance of Water Baptism.



HOW TO HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

The gospel is called the "good news" and it is particularly good news concerning our relationship with God.

The gospel is that God himself has come to rescue and renew creation in and through the work of Jesus Christ on our behalf. Why does creation (which includes you and me) need rescuing? Because of sin.

This may sound heavy at first, but it's the truth. In order to understand the good news, we really do need to have a right understanding of sin. God is not focused on our sin, but it is what has broken our relationship with him and messed up our true identity.

Sin is making everything about ME. Sin is living life my way, for my fame and glory, instead of living God's way for God. We have all sinned and really need the gospel- we desperately need Jesus to rescue us from the penalty and effects of our sin.

When we repent (change our mind about who is really God in our lives and by faith believe that life, death and resurrection of Jesus has restored us to a right relationship with God the Father, then this good news begins to change every area of our life back to the way God designed it to be.

Every sin and issue that stands in the way of our faithfulness to God's design and the commands of Jesus is ultimately a gospel issue. Since all sin is the outcome of unbelief in God, we can learn to apply the truth about him and the good news to every area of our lives. To do this, we will have to learn to trust God and others with our sin and the messiness of our lives.

See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. **Hebrews 3:12**

The foundation of a gospel-centered life is the decision to offer to God our plans in exchange for His plans. We must allow the truth about who God is, what He has done, and our new identity in Christ to inform all of life.

KNOW GOD

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. ***Romans 3:23***

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. ***Romans 6:23***

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ***Romans 5:8***

1. _____ that God has not been first place in your life and ask Him to forgive your sins.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ***1 John 1:9***

2. _____ that Jesus died to pay for your sins and that he rose from the dead and is alive today.

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ***Romans 10:9-10***

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." ***Acts 4:12***

For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ***1 Thessalonians 4:14***



3. _____ God's free gift of salvation. Don't try to earn it.

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ***Ephesians 2:8-9***

Your relationship with God is not restored by anything you do, but on the basis of what Jesus has already done for you!

4. _____ Jesus Christ to come into your life and be the Lord of your life.

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ***John 1:12-13***

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. ***Revelation 3:20***

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

The gospel is the ***good news*** *that God is rescuing humanity and renewing creation in and through the person and work of Jesus Christ on our behalf.*


YONKERS

HAVING A GENUINE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

1. I can do more or I can receive what has already been done.

You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. ***John 5:39-40***

2. I can live _____ approval OR I can live _____ approval.

God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ***Romans 5:8***

3. I can obey out of _____ OR I can obey out of _____.

If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ***John 14:15***

Real Christianity is about _____, not _____.



ESSENTIAL HABITS

The purpose of this class is to help provide the tools necessary to help each believer become a spiritually mature disciple of Jesus Christ.

Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.
Ephesians 4:14-15

WHAT IS SPIRITUAL MATURITY

Spiritual maturity is becoming more like Christ.

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ***Romans 8:29***

FACTS ABOUT SPIRITUAL MATURITY

1. It's a _____.

For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. ***Hebrews 5:12-13***

2. It is a _____.

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. ***2 Peter 3:18***

3. It takes _____.

For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue,[a] and virtue with knowledge.
2 Peter 1:5

HOW CAN I GROW?

A person grows spiritually mature by developing habits (spiritual disciplines) of a disciple.

DEFINITION OF A HABIT:

A continual, often unconscious inclination to do a certain activity, acquired through frequent repetition; An established disposition of the character.

Before followers of Jesus were called "Christians", they were known as

_____.

WE GROW MATURE THROUGH:

GATHERING REGULARLY TO HEAR TEACHING FROM SCRIPTURE

"All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching ... and to prayer." ***Acts 2:42***

BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER

"Have nothing to do with irrelevant, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness;" ***I Timothy 4:7***

GENEROUS LIVING

"They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need." ***Acts 2:45***

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER BELIEVERS

"All the believers devoted themselves to ... fellowship." ***Acts 2:42***



BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER

A vibrant and healthy relationship with God is developed and sustained through Bible study and prayer.

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip His people to do every good work." ***2 Timothy 3:16-17***

HOW DO I GET MORE FROM MY BIBLE?

1. I must accept its _____.

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." ***James 1:22***

2. I must see _____ clearly.

"For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people." ***Titus 2:11***

"And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself." ***Luke 24:27***

3. I must _____ its principles.

"Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them." ***John 13:17***

"But don't just listen to God's Word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves." ***James 1:22***

The Bible is not about you.
The Bible is about Jesus.


“Always be joyful
never stop praying”
I Thess 5:16

TALKING WITH GOD

Jesus exemplified a personal relationship with God through prayer that gave Him great strength. Every person who has ever been effective in service to God has developed this habit. The only way to be a healthy Christian is to spend time with God daily through prayer.

THE PURPOSE OF A DAILY PRAYER TIME

1. To gain _____ in God.

"Take delight in the Lord, and He will give you your heart's desires." ***Psalm 37:4***

2. To get _____ from God.

"Show me the right path, O Lord; point out the road for me to follow. Lead me by your truth and teach me, for you are the God who saves me. All day long I put my hope in you." ***Psalm 25:4-5***

3. To grow in my _____ with God.

"Oh righteous Father, the world doesn't know you, but I do; and these disciples know You sent Me. I have revealed You to them, and I will continue to do so. Then Your love for Me will be in them, and I will be in them." ***John 17:25-26***

HOW TO BEGIN THE HABIT OF BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER

1. Select a specific time and place.

The best time to have a quiet time with God is when you are at your best. Whatever time you set, be consistent.

"Then, accompanied by the disciples, Jesus left the upstairs room and went as usual to the Mount of Olives. There He told them, 'Pray that you will not give in to temptation.'" ***Luke 22:39-40***

"Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray." ***Mark 1:35***

2. Follow a simple plan.

THE MODEL JESUS GAVE US FOR PRAYER

"Once Jesus was in a certain place praying. As He finished, one of His disciples came to Him and said, "Lord, teach us to pray" ***Luke 11:1***

PRAY LIKE THIS:

"Our Father in heaven, may Your name be kept holy. May Your Kingdom come soon. May Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us today the food we need, and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one." ***Matthew 6:9-13***

1. Connect with God _____.

"Our Father in heaven"

2. Submit your life to Him and to His name.

"Your name be kept holy"

3. Pray His _____ first.

"May Your Kingdom come soon. May Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven."

4. Depend on Him for everything.

"Give us today the food we need."

5. Keep your heart right with God and with people.

"Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us."

6. Take your stand against the _____.

"And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one."

7. Have faith in God's ability to answer your prayer.

"For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen." (Included in some translations)

GIVING OF OURSELVES

1. Give of your _____.

"So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days." ***Ephesians 5:15-16***

2. Give of your _____.

"A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other." ***I Corinthians 12:7***

3. Give of your _____.

"If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously." ***Romans 12:8***

"You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things." ***Matthew 23:23***

BENEFITS OF GIVING OF YOUR LIFE

1. Giving draws you closer to God.

"Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be." ***Matthew 6:21***

2. Giving is the antidote to materialism.

"Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life." ***I Timothy 6:17-19***

3. Giving increases faith.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce." ***Proverbs 3:5,9***

4. Giving is an investment in eternity.

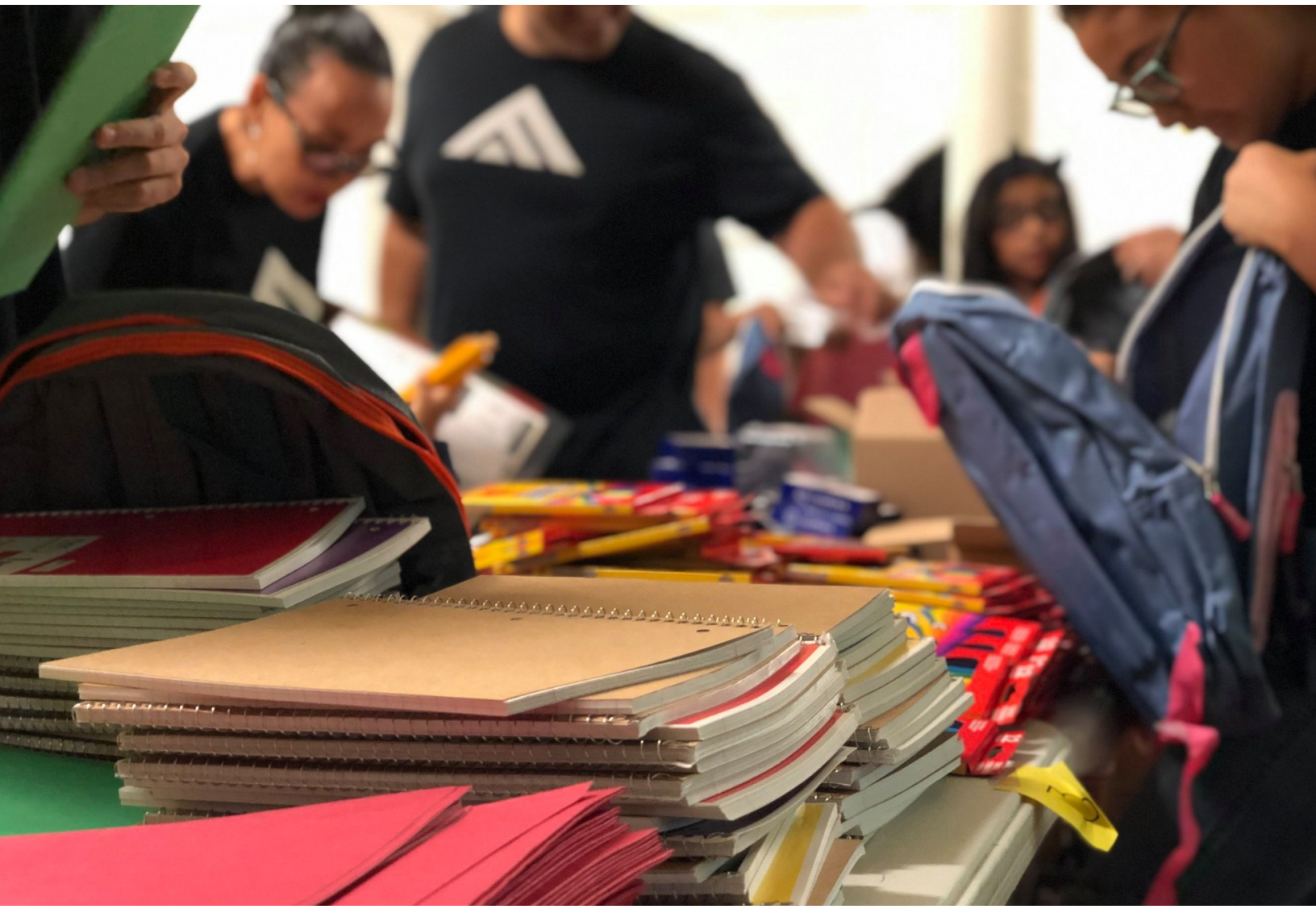
"Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life." ***I Timothy 6:18-19***

5. Giving blesses you in return.

"Blessed are those who are generous, because they feed the poor." ***Proverbs 22:9***
"The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed." ***Proverbs 11:25***
"Good comes to those who lend their money generously and conduct their business fairly." ***Psalm 112:5***

6. Giving makes you happy.

"And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive." ***Acts 20:35***



GIVING WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDE

Give _____.

"So two things will result from this ministry of giving – the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God." ***2 Corinthians 9:12***

"You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure." ***2 Corinthians 9:7A***

Give _____.

"For God loves a cheerful giver." ***2 Corinthians 9:7***

Give _____.

"For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints." ***2 Corinthians 8:3-4***

Give _____.

"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." ***2 Corinthians 9:6***

Church Finances

"Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the Lord's; it is holy to the Lord. ***Leviticus 27:30***

On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come. ***1 Corinthians 16:2***

1. TITHE

2. OFFERINGS

3. GIFT OF GIVING

We recognize that giving 10% of our income is the biblical standard for giving. At times God also prompts our hearts to give over and above the tithe to support missions work, help those in need, and see the church grow.

The giving of tithes and offerings is worship to God and evidence of the relationship between the giver and God. Giving expresses our belief that everything we have comes from and belongs to God, and He is our ultimate provider.

WATER BAPTISM

We practice baptism by immersion in water, which is the way Jesus was baptized and the way the Bible describes.

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.
Mark 1:9-10

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Matthew 28:19

So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.
Matthew 10:32-33

1. Following the _____ set by Christ.

2. Demonstrating your _____ life.

3. Declaring your commitment _____.

Water baptism declares **OUTWARDLY** what has happened **INWARDLY**.



Your Next Steps

- Place your hope and trust in the person and work of Jesus.
- Go public with your relationship with Jesus publicly through water baptism.
- Download our Faith Church app and have a daily time with God by going through the reading plan.
- Begin to develop spiritual disciplines like Bible reading, prayer, church involvement and giving.

CONNECT TO GOD'S PEOPLE



In step two we will cover:

- Our need for the church community.
- Four commitments of a church member.
- How generosity enables the church's mission.
- How relationships play a role in your journey.


Upcoming Events

THE COMMUNITY OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Our relationship with God is not just a personal and private relationship. When we receive our new identity as God's child we also receive a new spiritual family to share life with. In fact, when we look at how God operates in the Bible we see that the people of God (Church community) is the primary way He displays His goodness to the world. The church community is meant to put on display what it looks like to have the grace of God working in every area of our lives as we relate to each other and our world.

Even though we are all different in many ways, the Gospel of Jesus is the one thing that brings us all together. The church community is one of the essential ways God helps us grow to more fully center our lives around the good news of the Gospel.

According to Webster, ***community*** can be defined as a unified body of individuals, a group of people with a common characteristic or interest living together within a larger society. When we think of community, a number of words come to mind: ***unified, joint, participate, love, common, cooperate, connect, sharing...***

"Community" is a word with many meanings and contexts. It's an ideal, a hope, and a need. It's the foundation of any group or church and requires people to interact, share, and participate in a common effort. It's similar to a team sport that requires individuals to prioritize the involvement of others in order to succeed.

Community cannot be created in isolation, nor does it happen without action. It requires people to navigate the tensions of interpersonal relationships.

Creating community doesn't come easily, but when it happens, the rewards are worth the effort.

So what does community look like? Lots of people talk about it. It looks good on paper, but when it really starts to work, it sometimes shows up in unexpected ways. Here are some examples…

- People intentionally moving to other parts of the city to be closer to those in their community.
- Communities getting together just to pray and plan their monthly calendars.
- Gathering to pray and support someone who was leaving on an international missions trip.
- Focus benevolent action oversees and locally.
- Sending members of a group out to start another group to reach new people.
- When a member was having financial troubles, the whole community takes a collection to help meet a need.


FAITH
CHURCH

OUR STORY AND VALUES



OUR STORY

Faith Church began as a bible study in July of 1986. Shorty after that, in November of 1986, we began gathering together for Sunday worship services.

In January of 2002 we moved to our present location on Palisade Avenue where God has faithfully continued to use the ministries of our church family to meet various needs in the community.

As our story continues to unfold we look forward to the ways God continues to allow us to reach people with the life-changing message of the Jesus.



CONNECT TO GOD

We believe when people encounter Christ, life springs up. Our weekend worship gatherings are focused on creating space for people far from God to draw near to Him.



CONNECT TO GOD'S PEOPLE

Throughout Scripture, we see that God has made us for relationship. In community, we find the truth of God becomes the love of God. Small groups are where people learn about Christ, grow closer together, and experience tremendous growth as they serve their community together.



CONNECT TO GOD'S PURPOSE

We believe the church is functioning best when it gathers and scatters. We want to unleash people to serve the world around them because this is the place where our individual gifts come to life.

OUR VALUES

Our church operates with a set of values that are used to help guide the direction and behavior of our leadership and the congregation as a whole. The first three values (gospel, mission and community) are considered "super values" that align with our vision to connect people to God (gospel), God's people (community), and God's purpose (mission).

GOSPEL

We share the only message that works using any method that works.

As the church, we declare and demonstrate the gospel in everything we say and do; we will do anything short of sin to introduce people to the good news of Jesus.

MISSION

We embrace His purpose over our preferences.

As the church, we exist for the mission of God; we are spiritual contributors, not spiritual consumers.

COMMUNITY

We invite people to belong before they believe.

As the church, we extend the gift of community to all who seek it; we believe that discipleship happens best in relationship with others.

SERVICE

We meet needs when we see needs.

As the church, we recognize and run toward opportunities to serve and strengthen our community; we serve without an agenda.

EMPOWERMENT

We don't recruit volunteers, we release leaders.

As the church, we help people discover how God made them; we empower people to faithfully serve in ways that align their talents and passions.

EXCELLENCE

We do the best we can with the best we have.

As the church, we desire to worship God with excellence in every endeavor; we honor God through wise stewardship of resources.

GENEROSITY

We hold tightly to everything God says to us; we hold loosely to everything God gives to us.

As the church, we stand firmly on God's word; we give cheerfully to God's work.

OUR VISION

Our vision as a church is to see Gospel transformation in every area of our lives and in every life in our area. We believe it is only by entering into a personal relationship with God, and connecting with God's people that we can experience everything God has promised us in Christ. Everything we do as a church is focused on seeing this happen in the lives of people.

OUR LEADERSHIP

People who invest their hearts, time, families, and finances in the building of a local church deserve to have confidence in church leadership. People are looking for leaders who conduct themselves with integrity and respect when making decisions that affect their lives.

OUR CHURCH IS ...

Guided by Pastors.

The pastoral team is led by our Lead Pastor, Rob Kirk. This team exists to help equip our church family for ministry and oversee the day-to-day operation of the church.

Protected by Trustees.

The Trustee Board is comprised of members of the congregation who are nominated and approved to oversee the financial needs of the church. They provide counsel to the Lead Pastor regarding the major financial commitments of Faith Church.

Enabled by Generosity.

"One-tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain from the fields or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord and must be set apart to Him as holy." ***Leviticus 27:30***

At Faith Church, we practice tithing for the support of Christ's Body, the church, as God commands. We recognize that giving 10% of our income is the biblical standard of giving.

Many people love to give to God, but need to have confidence in the methods and purposes used by the organizations to which they give. Therefore, there are a great number of people willing to give if they are able to see honesty, integrity, and genuine spiritual values reflected in the lifestyles of their church leaders.

The giving of tithes and offerings is a form of worship to Jesus Christ and is an expression of the relationship between the individual giver and the Lord. Funds are not "income only," they are a form of worship and must not be considered as a business transaction, but as an expression of gratitude toward God.

OUR MINISTRY PHILOSOPHY

Our church operates under a small set of statements that are used to help guide the direction and behavior of our leadership and the congregation as a whole.

1. _____ versus a _____ church.

We believe it is both a privilege and an honor to come together and worship God openly in our weekend worship gatherings. The same is true for every aspect of church life. Our desire for you is that serving God at Faith Church never becomes a burden or something that has to be done. Serving God should be an experience that is energizing and life giving.

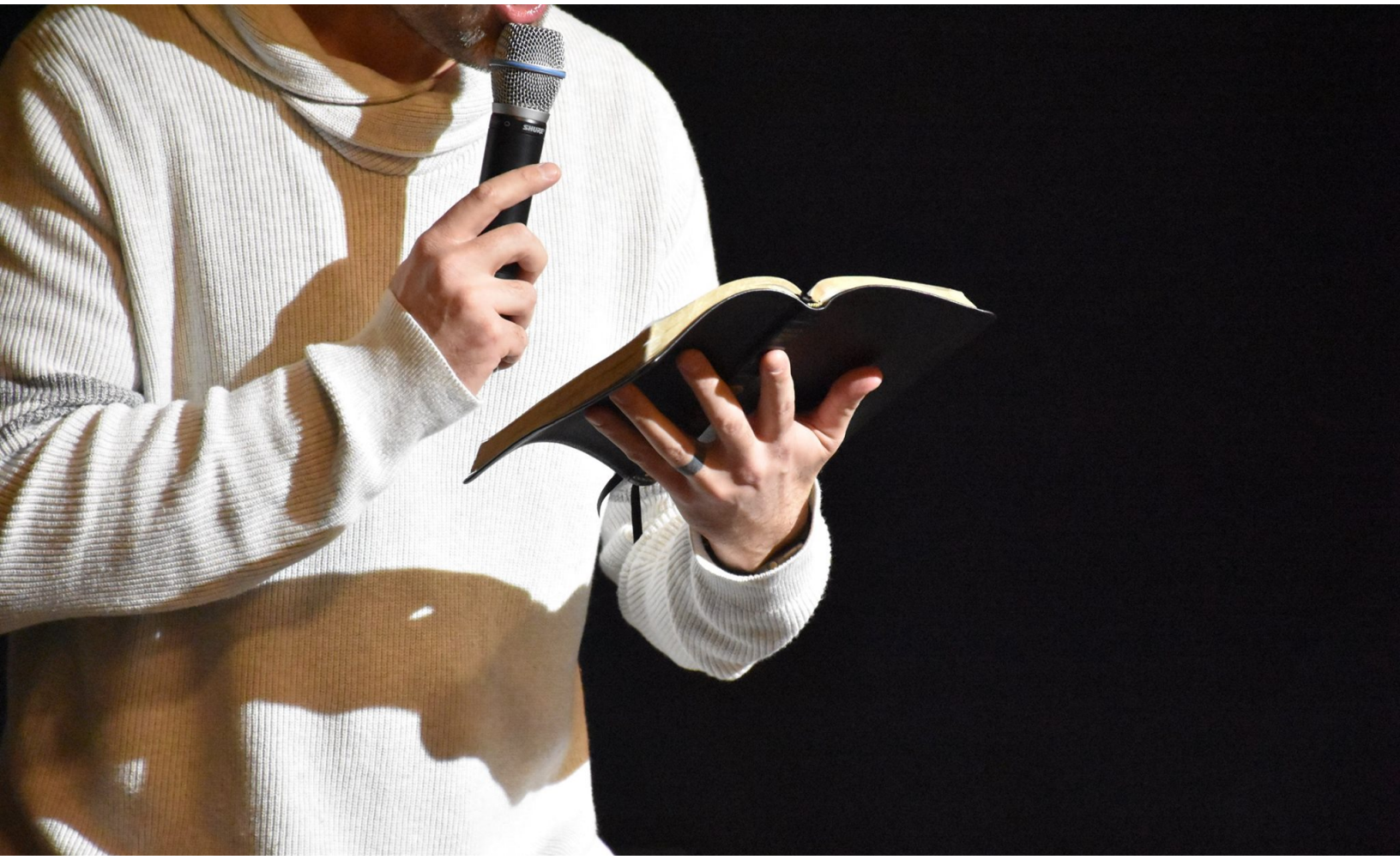
2. Every member is a _____.

We believe God has wired each of us in unique ways to fulfill the plan and the purpose that He determined when He created us. That plan and purpose includes helping to build the Kingdom of God. It is our desire to help you understand this wiring and guide you to identify, and plug into, His ministry call on your life.

3. Church of _____.

None of us have arrived. We are all works in progress. Our goal at Faith Church is to come alongside you and help you on your journey as we continue to take next steps in our walk with God. Each of us has a "next step" in our walk with God.


EXIT
EXIT
1 Kings 3:9



CORE BELIEFS

Scripture

The Scriptures are true, authoritative, and sufficient.

Psalm 19:7-11; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21

One True God

There is one true God, Creator of heaven and earth, who eternally exists in three distinct persons; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 46:9-10; John 17:3; 1 Timothy 2:5; 1 Corinthians 8:4-6; Genesis 1:26; 2 Corinthians 13:14

Sin and Salvation

All humanity, Christ excluded, is sinful by both birth and action, and Jesus Christ died as the sacrificial substitute to pay the penalty for sin. Only through faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ and repentance from sin can one be reconciled to God and experience true life and joy.

Romans 3:12-21, 23; 5:8, 7:18; Ephesians 2:1-3; Communion: 1 Corinthians 11:23-25, 15:1-4; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 1:4; 1 Peter 2:22-24, 3:18; John 3:18; Baptism: Matthew 28:19

Resurrection and Return

Jesus Christ physically rose from the dead, ascended into heaven and will one day physically return, and only those who turn from sin and to Jesus in faith and repentance will be raised to eternal reward.

Matthew 28:1-20; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-53; John 1:20-21, 25, 11:24-25; 1 Corinthians 15:12-34; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Hebrews 9:28; 1 John 3:2; Revelation 1:7, John 5:28-29

Additional resources pertaining to our beliefs can be found on our website (faithchurchyonkers.org).

In the essentials UNITY
In the peripherals FREEDOM
In everything LOVE

ENVIRONMENTS WE CREATE

SUNDAY WORSHIP GATHERING

Our weekend worship gatherings are designed to help people at all stages in their spiritual journey with an emphasis toward the lost and the unchurched. It is our goal to see each person develop a closer and stronger walk with God. To accomplish this, our worship gatherings focus on four qualities:

1. _____

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'" ***Psalm 122:1***

"But the time is coming – indeed it's here now – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship Him that way. For God is Spirit, so those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth." ***John 4:23–24***

2. _____

"As they listen, their secret thoughts will be exposed, and they will fall to their knees and worship God, declaring, 'God is truly here among you.'" ***1 Corinthians 14:25***

3. _____

"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 4:11–12***

4. _____

"For 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' But how can they call on Him to save 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***





DINNER PARTIES & SMALL GROUPS

We believe that real life change happens in the context of relationships. Here at Faith Church, we call these environments Dinner Parties and Small Groups. In the Bible they worshipped together in the temple, but ministry happened house-to-house.

"I never shrank back from telling you what you needed to hear, either publicly or in your homes." ***Acts 20:20***

The vision of Faith Church is to see gospel transformation in every area of our lives and in every life in our area. The primary environment for ministry and life change in our church family is smaller gatherings of people who choose to share life with each other while becoming more like Jesus.

We will talk about our Dinner Parties and Small Groups towards the end of this chapter of the class where you will have the opportunity to better understand our small group process, the current groups available, and the chance to ask any questions about how we currently do these small group gatherings.

SERVE TEAMS

All of us were created by God to make a difference in the life of another person. God has a place for you where your unique abilities and passions can touch the lives of others. We believe that your life will never make sense until you find, develop, and fulfill that purpose.

During Step 3 in the Connect Class, you will complete exercises to help you understand more of how God designed you. Also, in that class you will see where you can plug in to best utilize these gifts and talents for the glory of God.

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago." ***Ephesians 2:10***

"But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus – the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God." ***Acts 20:24***

"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we all serve the same Lord ... All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it." ***1 Corinthians 12:4-5, 27***


YOU'VE
GOT
THIS
#FAITHCHURCHYONKERS
YOU'RE
LOOKING
Amazing
TODAY!
#FAITHCHURCHYONKERS



RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER BELIEVERS

Real life happens in the context of relationships. In the Bible, God's people worshipped in the Temple, but ministry happened house-to-house.

"I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house." ***Acts 20:20***

The vision of our church family is to see Gospel transformation in every heart, home, and neighborhood in our community. The primary way we help this happen is through our dinner parties and small groups – smaller gatherings of people who choose to share life with each other while becoming more like Jesus.

THESE GROUPS PROVIDE THREE THINGS:

1. A place to _____.

"And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people." ***Acts 2:46-47***

2. A place to _____.

"Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another." ***Proverbs 27:17***

3. A place to _____ and meet needs in your community.

Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. ***James 2:15-17***

WHY ARE SMALL GROUPS IMPORTANT?

Small Groups provide opportunities for:

BIBLE STUDY: I need people to strengthen and balance the Word of God in my life.

RELATIONSHIP: I need people who really know me.

PRAYER: I need people to pray for me personally.

SUPPORT: I need people who will help me, and protect me, in times of need.

SERVICE: I need to participate in ministry as a part of the team.

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." *John 13:34-35*

4 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT SMALL GROUPS

1. Our groups are sermon based.

The Bible teaches that our new life in Christ flows from the power of God's Word (1 Peter 1:23). Our groups are centered on discussion that comes directly from the sermons we preach from God's Word on Sunday's. This helps us internalize and apply what we have heard.

2. We have three semesters every year.

Life is seasonal, so these smaller groups are geared to flow with these seasons. Our groups meet in the Fall, Winter, and Spring with the Summer off.

3. You can join a group.

Don't wait to join a dinner party or small group. You can find the right group for you and your family today by speaking with your table host, visiting our website (faithchurchyonkers.org), or by downloading our Faith Church app. We will help you connect with a group leader so that you can make plans to check out a group in person.

4. You can lead a group.

One way you can use your gifts is by helping to lead a group. The first step is to contact us on our website or app and we will be in touch about going through our leadership development process.

4 COMMITMENTS OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

1. I will protect the _____ of my church.

- **By acting in love toward other members.**
- **By refusing to gossip.**
- **By following the biblical pattern of handling personal conflict.**
- **By following the leaders.**

> *So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.* ***Romans 14:19***
>
> *Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart.* ***1 Peter 1:22***
>
> *Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.* ***Ephesians 4:29***
>
> *Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.* ***Hebrews 13:17***

2. I will share the _____ of my church.

- **By fighting together for the gospel.**
- **By praying for its health and growth.**
- **By inviting people far from God to attend.**
- **By embracing and living out the mission of God.**
- **By warmly welcoming those who visit.**

> We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly[a] mentioning you in our prayers.
> ***1 Thessalonians 1:2***



3. I will serve the _____ of my church.

- **By discovering, developing, and deploying my gifts and talents.**
- **By being equipped to serve by my pastors.**
- **By developing a servant heart.**

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:.
1 Peter 4:10

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds[a] and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. ***Ephesians 4:11-12***

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others… but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.
Philippians 2:3-4,7

4. I will support the _____ of my church.

- **By intentionally serving people outside of our church.**
- **By living a godly life.**
- **By growing in the grace of giving.**

Only let your manner of life be worthy[a] of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel. ***Philippians 1:27***

On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come. ***1 Corinthians 16:2***



Your Next Steps

- Become a church member by filling out the Connect Class Step #2 card today.
- Download our Faith Church app to stay connected.
- Join a dinner party or small group next semester.
- Serve on a team.

CONNECT TO GOD'S PURPOSE



In step three we will cover:

- The story God invites us into.
- Lifestyle rhythms that create opportunities to impact the lives of others.
- How God has uniquely gifted you to serve.
- Opportunities to serve in our church family.


High Trails

THE STORY GOD INVITES US INTO

Our lives are wrapped up in stories. They are the language of our world. Think about your favorite movies or books. They draw you in… you begin to feel what the characters feel… their pain becomes your pain… their victory becomes your victory. We enter the drama and it becomes part of our own experience. Stories are the most powerful form of communication we have; they speak to the mind, the body, and the emotions.

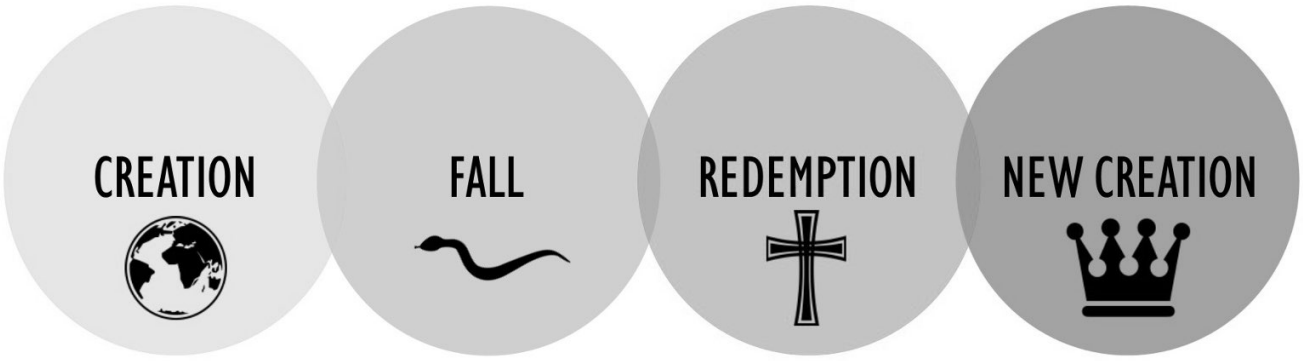
Everyone has a story and all people are storytellers.

I grew up going to Sunday school pretty much every week of my young life. Our teachers told us amazing stories from the Bible, all of them ending with a nice moral like, *"If you had faith like David you could slay any 'giant' in your own life too!"* Or, *"So kids, if you are obedient like Noah, God will protect you from all the bad stuff in your life too."*

Not only did they often miss the point of the narrative (God is always the hero!), but they never taught us that the Bible is one BIG story. In fact, it is the gospel Story. It's not a collection of unrelated moralistic tales, nor is it a history lesson. The Bible tells a living and active story that is STILL happening, and we are a part of the adventure!

As we begin to see ourselves in God's story of Creation, Fall, Redemption, and New Creation, we will begin to see how God is calling us to share our lives in ways that show people who Jesus is. There are three ways we could tell the story of Jesus as we go…

1. Tell stories about Jesus from the Bible.
2. Tell stories Jesus told.
3. Tell stories about you and Jesus.



SERVING TO EMPOWER, EMPOWERING TO SERVE

1. It's about _____, not enablement.

Our mission is to empower people to serve and minister to others, not to enable one-way dependency.

2. It's about _____, not us.

We believe that how we serve should focus on others not ourselves, preserving their dignity, not appeasing our pity.

3. It's about making _____, not consumers.

We believe in equipping disciples of Jesus Christ who multiply, not creating casual consumers.

LOCAL MISSIONS

We invest in our surrounding community through a number of different avenues. It is our intent to reach the unchurched in our area and represent Jesus in everything we do. Here are some of the ways we reach out locally:

- Outreach-focused small groups
- Local partnerships
- Serve projects

"Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you." ***James 1:27***

GLOBAL MISSIONS

We have invested heavily in specific missions efforts around the globe since our church began in 1986.

We look to invest in worthy projects through trusted relationships. These opportunities are reviewed on a regular basis, prayed for, and decisions to fund them are made by our church leaders.

We also invite people to participate in our missional efforts through giving and going.

"Then I heard the Lord asking, 'Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?' I said, Here I am. Send me." ***Isaiah 6:8***

EVERY DAY LIFE IS THE PROGRAM

Listed below are six rhythms of life that are happening in every context and culture. In many ways you are already living in these rhythms and may not have notice. Now we want to grow in the ability to express our gospel identity (a family of missionary servants) through every area of our lives. Take a look and think about what they might mean for you as a part of your daily and weekly rhythm of life.

1. _____

Get more and more familiar with the Bible as one big story - God's story. Get to know the stories of the people in your community and help each other see how your stories intersect with God's story.

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. Luke ***24:27***

2. _____

Set aside regular times to just listen to God. Listen 'backward' through time in God's Word. You can actively listen 'forward' to hear what God is saying to you today through his Spirit and through your community.

Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance. ***Proverbs 1:5***

3. _____

Gather throughout the week with your community to share stories and celebrate all that God is doing in and amongst you. Invite others to these celebrations as a way of displaying God's extravagant blessings.

And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. ***Matthew 22:1-2***



4. _____

Intentionally bless others through words, gifts, or action. God desires that all people would be blessed through Jesus. Seek God's direction for who he would have you tangibly bless each week.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. ***2 Corinthians 1:3-4***

5. _____

Regularly eat meals with others as a remainder of our common need for God and his faithfulness to provide both physically and spiritually. Try and eat one meal each week with at least one person who you intentional invite to enjoy a meal with you.

The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds." ***Matthew 11:19***

6. _____

Take time each week to rest, play, create, and restore beauty in ways that display the Gospel, resting in Jesus' completed work on our behalf. Cultivate this gospel rhythm of rest and create in your life.

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ***Exodus 20:8***

KNOW YOURSELF

OUR HOPE FOR YOU...

Our hope is that you take a step towards understanding how your uniquely designed personality and spiritual gifts help reveal your part in the body of Christ.

DISCOVERING YOUR PERSONALITY

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created anew in Christ, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago." ***Ephesians 2:10***

Write your name:

_____

Write your name with your opposite hand:

_____

When you tried to do something that was not natural to you three things were true:

- You felt uncomfortable.
- It took extra time and effort.
- You still did a lousy job.

THE GOAL OF STEP 3:

To discover how my _____ helps to

reveal my _____.

"I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in Me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father." ***John 14:12***

DISCOVERING YOUR PERSONALITY

Examining four personality types:

"D" _____

"I" _____

"S" _____

"C" _____

"Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous – how well I know it. ***Psalm 139:14***

Elements that help to develop your personality:

1. Family History

2. Training

3. Mentors

4. Experiences

"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" ***2 Corinthians 5:17***

PERSONALITY/LEADERSHIP STYLE TEST

1. _____ Total _____	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always
I am assertive, demanding, and decisive.	1	2	3	4	5
I enjoy doing multiple tasks at once.	1	2	3	4	5
I thrive in a challenge-based environment.	1	2	3	4	5
I think about tasks above others or myself.	1	2	3	4	5
I am motivated by accomplishment and authority.	1	2	3	4	5

2. _____ Total _____	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always
I enjoy influencing and inspiring people.	1	2	3	4	5
I tend to be the life of the party.	1	2	3	4	5
I think about motivating people.	1	2	3	4	5
I am optimistic about others.	1	2	3	4	5
I am motivated by recognition and approval.	1	2	3	4	5

3. _____ Total _____	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always
I thrive in consistent environments vs. changing ones.	1	2	3	4	5
I prefer specifics over generalizations.	1	2	3	4	5
I enjoy small groups of people.	1	2	3	4	5
I prefer being a member of a team vs. leading the team.	1	2	3	4	5
I am motivated by stability and support.	1	2	3	4	5

4. _____ Total _____	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always
I avoid taking big risks.	1	2	3	4	5
I love tasks, order and details.	1	2	3	4	5
I am right most of the time.	1	2	3	4	5
I comply with clearly defined rules.	1	2	3	4	5
I am motivated by quality and correctness.	1	2	3	4	5

My Personality / Leadership Style


EXTROVERTED
D
I
TASK ORIENTED
PEOPLE ORIENTED
C
S
INTROVERTED

D

"D"s are direct and decisive; they are risk takers and problem solvers. They are more concerned with completing tasks and winning than they are with gaining approval from people. Though the internal drive tends to make them insensitive to those around them, "D"s are not afraid to challenge the status quo, and they thrive when it comes to developing new things. They need discipline to excel, and they respond to direct confrontation. The greatest fear of a "D" is to be taken advantage of, and even despite their possible weaknesses—which include an aversion to routine, a tendency to overstep authority, an argumentative nature, and a habit of taking on too much—they place a high value on time and use their innovative thinking to accomplish difficult tasks and conquer challenges.

I

"I"s are inspiring and impressive. Enthusiastic, optimistic, impulsive, and emotional—they tend to be creative problem solvers and excellent encouragers. They often have a large number of friends, but they can become more concerned with approval and popularity than with getting results. An "I"s greatest fear is rejection, but they thrive when it comes to motivating others. Their positive sense of humor helps them negotiate conflicts. Though they can be inattentive to details and poor listeners, they can be great peacemakers and effective teammates when they control their feelings and minimize their urge to entertain and be the center of attention. They value lots of human touch and connection.

S

"S"s are steady and more reserved. Because they are stable and predictable, they do not like change, and they thrive in secure, non-threatening environments. They are often friendly and understanding as well as good listeners and loyal workers who are happy doing the same job consistently. With an incredible ability to forgive, reliable and dependable "S"s tend to make the best friends. Their greatest fear, however, is loss of security, and their possible weaknesses naturally include not only resistance to change, but also difficulty adjusting to it. They can also be too sensitive to criticism and unable to establish priorities. In order to avoid being taken advantage of, "S"s need to be stronger and learn how to say "no". They also like to avoid the limelight, but when given an opportunity to genuinely help others, they will gladly rise to the occasion. They feel most valued when they have truly helped someone.

C

"C"s are compliant and analytical. Careful and logical lines of thinking drive them forward, and accuracy is a top priority. They hold high standards and value systematic approaches to problem solving. Though they thrive when given opportunities to find solutions, they tend to ignore the feelings of others and can often be critical and downright crabby. Verbalizing feelings is difficult for them, but when they are not bogged down in details and have clear-cut boundaries, they can be big assets to the team by providing calculated "reality checks." The "C's biggest fear is criticism, and their need for perfectionism is often a weakness, as is their tendency to give in the midst of an argument. However, they are thorough in all activities and can bring a conscientious, even-tempered element to the team that will provide solid grounding. They value being correct the most.

D / I - "D/I"s are curious concluders who place emphasis on the bottom line and work hard to reach their goals. They are more determined than they are inspirational, yet their high expectations and standards for themselves and those around them typically causes them to make them quite an impact, motivating others to follow them. They have an array of interests and can become distracted by taking on too many projects. They often need to focus, prioritize, and simply slow down. Because "D/I"s thrive on activity and forward motion, they like to accomplish tasks through a large number of people. *Biblical Examples: Joshua (Joshua 1), Noah (Genesis 6-9), Sarah (Genesis 16, 1 Peter 3:6)*

I / D - "I/D"s are persuaders who are outgoing and energetic. They enjoy large groups and use their power of influence to attain respect and convince people to follow their lead. Sometimes they can be viewed as fidgety and nervous, but it comes from their need to be part of challenges that have variety, freedom, and mobility. "I/D"s could benefit from learning to look before they leap and spending more time being studious and still. They make inspiring leaders and know how to get results from and through people. *Biblical Examples: John the Baptist (Luke 3), Peter (Matthew 16 and 26, Acts 3), Rebekah (Genesis 24)*

S / D - "S/D"s are quiet leaders who can be counted on to get the job done. They perform better in small groups and do not enjoy speaking in front of crowds. Though they can be soft and hard-hearted at the same time, they enjoy close relationships with people, being careful not to dominate them. Challenges motivate them, especially ones that allow them to take a systemic approach. Because this personality style tends to be determined, persevering through time and struggles, they benefit from encouragement and positive relationships. *Biblical Examples: Martha (Luke 10:38-42), Job (Job 1:5, James 5:11)*

C / D - "C/D"s are cautious and determined designers who are consistently task oriented and very aware of problems. Sometimes viewed as insensitive, they do care about individual people but have a difficult time showing it. They often feel they are the only ones who can do the job the way it needs to be done, but because of their administrative skills, they are able to bring plans for change and improvements to fruition. "C/D"s have a tendency to be serious and could benefit from being more optimistic and enthusiastic. Despite their natural drive to achieve, they should concentrate on developing healthy relationships and simply loving people. *Biblical Examples: Bezalel (Exodus 35:30-36, 8, 37:1-9), Jochebed (Exodus 1:22-2:4), Jethro (Exodus 2, 18)*

D / S - "D/S"s are attainers and achievers with an ability to persevere. They are more active than passive, but they possess a kind of calm sensitivity and steadiness that makes them good leaders. They seem to be people oriented but can easily be dominant and decisive when it comes to tasks and project planning. They strive to accomplish goals with fierce determination that comes from strong internal drive, but they could benefit from contemplative and conservative thinking as well as spending more time focusing on relation- ships. *Biblical Examples: Daniel (Daniel 1-6), Job (Job 1:5, James 5:11), Martha (Luke 10: 38-42)*

I / S - "I/S"s are influential counselors who love people, and it is no surprise that people love them. They live to please and serve, and they tend to be good listeners. Looking good and encouraging others is important to them, as is follow- ing through and being obedient. They often lack in the area of organization and can be more concerned with the people involved than they are with the task at hand, however, they can be center stage or behind the scenes with equal effectiveness, and they shine when it comes to influencing and help- ing others. *Biblical Examples: Barnabas (Acts 4, 9, 11-15), Elisha (1 Kings 19, 2 Kings 2-3), Nicodemus (John 3, 7, 19)*

S / I - "S/I" s are inspirational counselors who exhibit warmth and sensitivity. Tolerant and forgiving, they have many friends because they accept and represent others
well. Their social nature and desire to be likable and flexible makes them inclined to be overly tolerant and non-confrontational. "S/I"s will benefit from being more task-oriented and paying more attention to detail. Kind and considerate, they include others and inspire them to follow. Words of affirmation go a long way with this personality type, and with the right motivation, they can be excellent team players. *Biblical Examples: Mary Magdalene (Luke 7: 36-47), Elisha (1 Kings 19, 2 Kings 2-13, Barnabas (Acts 4, 9, 11-15)*

C / I - "C/I"s pay attention to the details. They tend to impress others by doing things right and stabilizing situations. Not considered aggressive or pushy, they enjoy both large and small crowds. Though they work well with people, they are sometimes too sensitive to what others think about them and their work. They could often benefit from being more assertive and self motivated. Often excellent judges of character, they easily trust those who meet their standards. They are moved by genuine and enthusiastic approval as well as concise and logical explanations. Biblical Examples: Miriam (Exodus15-21, Numbers 12:1- 15), Ezra (Ezra 7, 8)

D / C - "D/C"s are challengers and can either be determined students or defiant critics. Being in charge is important to them, yet they care little about what others think as long
as they get the job done. They have a great deal of foresight and examine every avenue to find the best solution; they prefer to work alone. Though they fear failure and the lack of influence, they are motivated by challenges and can often be excellent administrators. They can benefit from learn- ing to relax and paying more attention to people. *Biblical Examples: Malachi (Malachi 4), Nathan (2 Samuel 12: 1-13), Nahum (Nahum 1-3)*

I / C - "I/C"s are inspiring yet cautious assessors who are excellent communicators through the combination of concerned awareness and appreciation of people. They excel in determining ways to improve production. They tend to be impatient and critical and they can also be overly persuasive and too consumed by the desire to win. "I/C"s like to work inside the box, and they could benefit from trying new things and caring less about what others think. This personality type often possesses a gift for teaching; they are generally dependable when it comes to paying attention to details and getting the job done. *Biblical Examples: Miriam (Exodus 15- 21), Ezra (Ezra 7-8), Shunammite Women (2 Kings 4:8-37)*

S / C - "S/C"s are diplomatic and steady as well as detail-oriented, stable, and contemplative, they like to weigh the evidence and discover the facts to come to a logical conclusion. More deliberate, they prefer to take their time, especially when the decision involves others. Possible weaknesses include being highly sensitive and unable to handle criticism, and they also need to be aware of the way they treat others. Operating best in precise and cause worthy projects, the "S/C" can be a peacemaker; this makes them a loyal team member and friend. *Biblical Examples: Moses (Exodus 3, 4, 20, 32), John (John 19:26-27), Eliezer (Genesis 24)*

C /S - "C/S"s are systematic and stable. They tend to do one thing at a time—and do it right. Reserved and cautious, they would rather work behind the scenes to stay on track; how- ever, they seldom take risks or try new things and naturally dislike sudden changes in their environments. Precisionist to the letter, they painstakingly require accuracy and fear criticism, which they equate to failure. Diligent workers, their motivation comes from serving others. *Biblical Examples: Esther (Esther 4), Zechariah (Luke 1), Joseph (Matthew 1: 1-23)*

PERSONAL GROWTH AREAS

IF YOU ARE A "D"

Mature = Gentleness

Choleric – dominance, directness, task-oriented, decisive, organized, outgoing, outspoken

- Strive to be an "active" listener.
- Be attentive to other team members' ideas until everyone reaches a consensus.
- Be less controlling and domineering.
- Develop a greater appreciation for the opinions, feelings, and desires of others.
- Put more energy into personal relationships.
- Show your support for the other team members.
- Take time to explain the "whys" of your statements and proposals.
- Be friendlier and more approachable.

IF YOU ARE AN "I"

Mature = Self discipline

- Sanguine – influence, interest in people, witty, easygoing, outgoing, people-oriented
- Weigh the pros and cons before making a decision; be less impulsive.
- Be more results oriented. Exercise control over your actions, words, and emotions.
- Focus more on details and facts.
- Remember to slow down your pace for other team members.
- Talk less; listen more.
- Consider and evaluate ideas from other team members.
- Concentrate on following through with tasks.

IF YOU ARE AN "S"

Mature = Initiative

- Phlegmatic – steadiness, stability, analyze, people-oriented, introverted
- Be more open to change. Be more direct in your interactions.
- Focus on overall goals of the team rather than specific procedures.
- Deal with confrontation constructively.
- Develop more flexibility.
- Increase pace to accomplish goals.
- Show more initiative.
- Work at expressing your thoughts, opinions, and feelings.

IF YOU ARE A "C"

Mature = Joy

- Melancholy – compliance, competence, task-oriented, goal-oriented, introverted
- Concentrate on doing the right things – not just doing things right.
- Be less critical of others' ideas and methods.
- Respond more quickly to accomplish team goals.
- Strive to build relationships with other team members.
- Be more decisive.
- Focus less on facts and more on people.

DISCOVERING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

"Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant." ***1 Corinthians 12:1***

SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE NOT

1. _____.

We all have natural abilities that we've learned from those around us regardless of Christian faith. Many times our natural abilities and strengths are redeemed by the Lord to become spiritual gifts.

2. _____.

We are all called to have character and our gifts should produce the nature of Jesus Christ in each person. A person should not say he has the "gift of peace" when we are all encouraged to develop that characteristic. Spiritual gifts offer opportunities for us to exemplify Christ.

3. _____.

Spiritual gifts often lead to titles or positions but a person may have the gift without the role or the role without the gift. Regardless, we should serve whenever we are given the opportunity. Working in the area of your gifting will allow you to "be" the person that God has called you to be rather than just "doing" good things.

PERSONALITY/LEADERSHIP STYLE TEST

The gift list is a combination of the gifts found in Romans, 1 Corinthians, and Ephesians. In this context we are grouping all of these into a single spiritual gifts list, but we encourage every person to learn more about each grouping.

1. I like organizing services and events.
2. I enjoy starting new churches.
3. I can tell when someone is insincere.
4. I pray for the lost daily.
5. Encouraging others is a high priority in my life.
6. Believing God for our daily needs is important to me.
7. Influencing others for the kingdom of God through finances is extremely important to me.
8. I enjoy having people come to my house.
9. Education is very important to me.
10. I tend to motivate others to get involved.
11. My heart hurts when I see others hurting.
12. Caring for the hurting is very important in my eyes.
13. The willful sin of others really aggravates me.
14. I enjoy serving behind the scenes.
15. I enjoy creating outlines of the Bible.
16. I enjoy the book of Proverbs more than any other book in the Bible.
17. I am passionate about managing details.
18. I prefer to pioneer new ministry projects.
19. I sense when situations are spiritually unhealthy.
20. I am greatly concerned about seeing the lost saved.
21. I try to come across loving and caring.
22. Asking God for a list of big things is exciting to me.
23. I find ways to give offerings above my tithe.
24. Creating a warm and welcoming home is important to me.
25. People seek me out to learn more about the Kingdom of God.
26. I prefer to take the lead whenever necessary.
27. I'm very sensitive to sad stories.
28. I enjoy connecting, caring, and coaching others.
29. Confronting someone with sin in their life is not hard.
30. It bothers me when people sit around and do nothing
31. I share Biblical truth with others in hopes of their personal growth.
32. When I study Scripture, God gives me unique insights.
33. Creating a task list is easy and enjoyable for me.
34. I am attracted to ministries that start new churches.
35. I can pinpoint issues or problems before others.
36. I enjoy sharing the gospel with a total stranger.
37. I look for ways to be an encouragement to other people.
38. I trust that God has my back in every situation.
39. Making more money means I can give more.
40. I tend to make total strangers feel at home.
41. I enjoy knowing Biblical details and helping others to understand.
42. I delegate responsibilities to accomplish tasks.
43. I am motivated to help those who are less fortunate.
44. I enjoy walking with someone in times of distress.
45. I enjoy hearing passionate and clear preaching of the truth.
46. I like to do small things that others pass over.
47. I prefer to teach the Bible topically rather than verse by verse.
48. When faced with difficulty I tend to make wise decisions and choices.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS RATINGS

Never = 1 Rarely = 2 Sometimes = 3 Often = 4 Always = 5

			TOTAL
1. _____	17. _____	33. _____	A. _____
2. _____	18. _____	34. _____	B. _____
3. _____	19. _____	35. _____	C. _____
4. _____	20. _____	36. _____	D. _____
5. _____	21. _____	37. _____	E. _____
6. _____	22. _____	38. _____	F. _____
7. _____	23. _____	39. _____	G. _____
8. _____	24. _____	40. _____	H. _____
9. _____	25. _____	41. _____	I. _____
10. _____	26. _____	42. _____	J. _____
11. _____	27. _____	43. _____	K. _____
12. _____	28. _____	44. _____	L. _____
13. _____	29. _____	45. _____	M. _____
14. _____	30. _____	46. _____	N. _____
15. _____	31. _____	47. _____	O. _____
16. _____	32. _____	48. _____	P. _____

*Spiritual gifts are given for the **glory** of God.*

GIFT DEFINITIONS AND SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

The following contains definitions of the Spiritual gifts. While not meant to be dogmatic or final, these definitions and supporting scriptures do correspond to characteristics of the gifts as expressed in the responses on the previous page.

A. ADMINISTRATION

The gift of administration is the divine strength or ability to organize multiple tasks and groups of people to accomplish these tasks. *Luke 14:28-30; Acts 6:1-7; 1 Corinthians 12:28*

B. APOSTLESHIP

The gift of apostleship is the divine strength or ability to pioneer new churches and ministries through planting, overseeing, and training. *Acts 15:22-35; 1 Cor. 12:28; 2 Cor. 12:12; Gal. 2:7-10; Ephesians 4:11-14*

C. DISCERNMENT

The gift of discernment is the divine strength or ability to spiritually identify falsehood and to distinguish between right and wrong motives and situations.
Matthew 16:21-23; Acts 5:1-11, 16:16-18; 1 Corinthians 12:10; 1 John 4:1-6

D. EVANGELISM

The gift of evangelism is the divine strength or ability to help non-Christians take the necessary steps to becoming a born-again Christian. *Acts 8:5-6, 8:26-40, 14:21, 21:8; Ephesians 4:11-14*

E. EXHORTATION

The gift of exhortation is the divine strength or ability to encourage others through the written or spoken word and Biblical truth. *Acts 14:22; Romans 12:8; 1 Timothy 4:13; Hebrews 10:24-25*

F. FAITH

The gift of faith is the divine strength or ability to believe in God for unseen supernatural results in every arena of life. *Acts 11:22-24; Romans 4:18-21; 1 Corinthians 12:9; Hebrews 11*

G. GIVING

The gift of giving is the divine strength or ability to produce wealth and to give by tithes and offerings for the purpose of advancing the Kingdom of God on earth.
Mark 12:41-44; Romans 12:8; 2 Cor. 8:1-7, 9:2-7

H. HOSPITALITY

The gift of hospitality is the divine strength or ability to create warm, welcoming environments for others in places such as your home, office, or church. *Acts16:14-15; Romans 12:13, 16:23; Heb. 13:1-2, 1 Peter 4:9*

I. KNOWLEDGE

The gift of knowledge is the divine strength or ability to bring clarity and to understand situations and circumstances often accompanied by a word from God. *Acts 5:1-11, 1 Cor. 12:8, Col. 2:2-3*

J. LEADERSHIP

The gift of leadership is the divine strength or ability to influence people at their level while directing and focusing them on the big picture, vision, or idea. *Romans 12:8; 1 Timothy 3:1-13, 5:17; Hebrews 13:17*

K. MERCY

The gift of mercy is the divine strength or ability to feel empathy and to care for those who are hurting in any way. *Matthew 9:35-36; Mark 9:41; Romans 12:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:14*

L. PASTOR / SHEPHERD

The gift of pastor / shepherd is the divine strength or ability to care for the personal needs of others by nurturing and mending life issues. *John 10:1-18; Ephesians 4:11-14; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 1 Peter 5:1-3*

M. PROPHECY

The gift of prophecy is the divine strength or ability to boldly speak and bring clarity to scriptural and doctrinal truth, in some cases foretelling God's plan. *Acts 2:37-40, 7:51-53, 26:24-29; 1 Cor. 14:1-4; 1 Thessalonians 1:5*

N. SERVICE

The gift of serving is the divine strength or ability to do small or great tasks in working for the overall good of the body of Christ. *Acts 6:1-7; Romans 12:7; Galatians 6:10; 2 Timothy 1:16-18; Titus 3:14.*

O. TEACHING

The gift of teaching is the divine strength or ability to study and learn from the Scriptures primarily to bring understanding and depth to other Christians. *Acts 18:24-28, 20:20-21; 1 Cor. 12:28, Eph. 4:11-14*

P. WISDOM

The gift of wisdom is the divine strength or ability to apply the truths of Scripture in a practical way, producing the fruitful outcome and character of Jesus Christ. *Acts 6:3, 10; 1 Corinthians 2:6-13, 12:8*

SERVE TEAM DESCRIPTIONS

HOSPITALITY TEAM

This team focuses on creating a warm and welcoming environment for people attending Faith Church. Whether it is greeting people warmly, helping people find a seat, or answering questions about the church – these are the logistical "hosts and hostesses" of our church family. Their responsibility is to create a great initial impression and brighten people's day.

CREATIVE TEAM

This team makes each visual element happen in our environments. With roles ranging from graphic design to social media, videography and art curation, we are always looking for people to help create irresistible environments. Roles are available in our weekend service and throughout the week.

MUSIC BAND & MEDIA TEAMS

This team exists to facilitate a dynamic encounter with God that is focused on both His presence and His power. They are always looking for new talent that can enhance the worship experience and intentionally facilitate drawing people closer to God.

PRAYER TEAM

This team is committed to pray weekly for the prayer requests of our congregation. They take seriously the important role of interceding for individuals, leaders, the lost, and Christian life as a whole.

FAITH KIDS & FAITH KIDS JR. TEAMS

These teams creates safe and fun environments for kids to learn about Jesus. Our goal is to see each child transition from nursery through 5th grade with a greater knowledge of the Bible and a desire to seek after God's Heart.

YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM

This team creates age appropriate environments that help students connect with God and each other as they grow in their faith. They gather together regularly and participate in several special events together throughout the year.

CONNECT CLASS HOSTS

This team has a passion to help people take their next step spiritually as they help others find out more about Faith Church, their personal gifts and talents, and how they can become involved. From set-up, clean up, welcoming participants, and handling Connect Class materials, this team ensures a positive experience for everyone involved.

SECURITY TEAM

This team ensures our church gatherings are safe and secure at all times, while making people feel welcome during their time with us.

ENVIRONMENTS TEAM

This team has a desire to create memorable experiences for our church family. They are constantly thinking and planning ways to make our Sunday gatherings feel special at strategic times throughout the year.

WATER BAPTISM TEAM

This team prepares for, and hosts, the water baptism experience for those who have decided to celebrate publicly what Jesus has done for them. From set-up, clean up, welcoming participants, and distributing our baptism kits, this team ensures a positive experience for everyone involved.

SMALL GROUP LEADERSHIP

This team lives at the heart of Faith Church because we are a church that believes that the best place for sustained life change to occur is within the context of intentional relationships. Along with facilitating small group meetings, this role provides shepherding and care for a small group of individuals and/or families within our church.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

1. Connect with _____.

People matter to God, so they matter to us.

I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents. ***Luke 15:10***

2. Build _____ with your team.

Real life happens, and leaders are developed, when we take a step towards intentional relationships.

So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us. ***1 Thessalonians 2:8***

3. _____ others.

We are a people of purpose, working together on purpose.

Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. ***Colossians 1:28***

4. Celebrate the _____.

There is nothing more powerful than a life changed by Christ.

Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents." ***Luke 15:10***



Your Next Steps

- Use the Connect Class Step #3 card to join a team.
- Pray for people in your life far from God.
- Invite friends to a Sunday gathering.
- Practice the 6 rhythms in your daily life.
- Identify and meet a need in your community.
- Live your life on mission wherever you go.
- Download our Faith Church app to stay connected.

APPENDIX

SUMMARY OF THE BIBLE

This is a story found in the Bible, about God, a being who has always existed and is the creator of everything. God is the only one in this story who always does what is good, right, and perfect- the Bible calls him holy. While God created the foundations of the earth, angels (his first creation) were there watching. They sang together and worshiped God… but some of these angels rebelled against God and his ways. The Bible teaches that all rebellion against God is called sin. And because of God's holiness he will not allow sin to remain in his presence, so he sent the rebellious angels, now known as demons, down into darkness on the earth.

Then God decided to create other beings, called humans, in his own image. God said, "Let us make man in our image to be like us." He then prepared the earth as a place for the humans to live- filling the earth with plants, birds, fish, and animals of all kinds. God created the first humans, Adam and Eve, and placed them in a beautiful garden and trusted them to care for an rule over all of his creation on earth. He told them, "be fruitful and multiply."

Daily, God would come and spend time with the humans, walking with them in the cool of the day. He showed them how to live in the best possible way- a life lived close to God ad under his protection- a life that is full and complete and eternal. God looked at all that he had created and saw that it was very good!

Unfortunately, Adam and Eve eventually chose to rebel against God and his authority, choosing to live in their own ways instead of his. Since God will not allow evil and rebellion to remain in his presence, Adam and Eve were sent out of the garden away from God. Separated from God and no longer following his ways, they were now subject to sickness, pain, and death. God told them, "The way you have chosen to live will bring you great struggles and pain, and then you will return to the ground from which you came." Not only were these humans now separated from God because of their sin, but they would also suffer as they were separated from the Giver of Life.

After leaving the garden, the number of humans on earth grew rapidly. Sin spread from Adam and Eve to their sons and it continued to spread from generation to generation. Even though humans were created in God's image, everyone chose to disobey God. They all constantly acted out in violence against each other. This went on for thousands of years.

Then God established a special relationship and a covenant promise- representing the deepest of all agreements- with a man name Abraham. God told Abraham, "I'll make you father of a great nation and famous throughout history. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. The entire earth will be blessed through your descendants. I will always be your God and you will always be my people."

Abraham's family, called the Israelites, were to be a new kind of people who would show the world what it means to once again live in God's ways. God gave them a vast amount of land where they enjoyed his blessings as they grew into a large nation.

But as time went by, the Israelites began doing what was right in their own eyes and rebelled against God and his laws. They stopped trusting in God and worshiped idols- people, things, wealth, and power- over God. In their rebellion, the Israelites faced great struggles and ended up a defeated nation of slaves. But God continued to love his people and promised that one day one of their descendants would come to rescue and restore humanity, and all of creation, back to the way God originally created it.

Then there were 400 years of silence between God and his people.

The Israelites, called Jews, and been under the control of other nations for hundreds of years. They were now ruled by Rome, the most powerful empire the world had ever known.

Finally, God sent an angel to a young woman named Mary in the town of Nazareth, The angel appeared to her and said, "You will become pregnant and have a son, and you are to name him Jesus. He will become a king whose kingdom will never need! This will happen supernaturally by God's Spirit, so this baby will be called God's Son."

God revealed to Mary and her soon-to-be husband Joseph that this boy was the long awaited Messiah King, the one whom God promised he'd send to rescue his people! Sure enough, the next year Mary gave birth to a son whom she named Jesus, which means, "the God who saves." Jesus grew up in both height and wisdom, and was loved by God and everyone who knew him. He lived a remarkable life, always choosing to live in God's ways and do what was good, right, and perfect.

As a man, Jesus called people to follow him, inviting them to be a part of what he called the kingdom of God, calling people to once again live under God's rule and reign. He said, "God blesses those who realize their need for him; the humble and poor, the gentle and merciful- the kingdom of God belongs to them. God blesses the pure in heart and those who hunger and thirst to be with him." He taught people that the kingdom of God is within our hearts.

He said, "God showed his great love for people by sending e- his only son- to this world. Anyone who believe in me and lives in my ways will find life that is complete and eternal! He sent me here to save people- not to judge them. Those who want to live in sin and darkness will reject me and bring God's judgment on themselves. But those who want to live in God's ways will trust me and live forever!"

As God had promised, he sent Jesus to rescue humanity from sin and the penalty of death. God accepted Jesus' perfect life in place of our own. Jesus was brutally beaten and died painfully on a wooden cross, taking the punishment that all rebellious humanity deserved! Three days later Jesus conquered death when God raised him back to life and he was seen by over 500 eyewitnesses.

Soon afterward, Jesus went to be with his Father in heaven, rising up into the clouds right before his followers' eyes! He promised that he would send his own Holy Spirit to come and dwell within them. The Spirit would remind them of all Jesus taught, transform their hearts to be like Jesus and give them power to walk in the ways of God like Jesus did. Jesus also sent his followers to go out and tell others about him- his life and his sacrifice for their sins- and lead them to trust him and walk in his ways.

This was the beginning of what the Bible calls the Church- a community of people all over the world who, because of Jesus, once again enjoy a life that is full and complete- living in the ways of God.

We can join this amazing story…the story continues with us!

The Bible also tells us the end of this story… Jesus promised to come back one day to destroy all evil, sin, and rebellion. Then there will be no more sickness, pain, or death. God's kingdom will come in fullness, and everyone and everything will live under his rule. Until then, we get to live in God's ways, giving people a foretaste of what life is like in the kingdom.

ANSWER KEY

Page 8: realize, believe

Page 9: accept, invite

Page 11: for, from, duty, delight, relationship, religion

Page 12: choice, process, discipline

Page 13: disciples

Page 15: authority, Jesus, apply

Page 16: delight, direction, relationship

Page 17: relationally, agenda, enemy

Page 19: time, talents, treasure

Page 21: willingly, cheerfully, sacrificially, expectantly

Page 22: example, changed, publicly

Page 31: get to, have to, minister, next steps

Page 36: celebration, inspiration, preparation, salvation

Page 43: connect, grow, serve

Page 45: unity, responsibility

Page 46: ministry, reputation

Page 52: empowerment, others, disciples

Page 53: know the story, listen, celebrate

Page 54: bless, eat, re-create

Page 55: personality, place

Page 56: dominant, influential, steady, conscientious

Page 63: natural aptitudes, character traits, titles or positions

Page 70: new people, relationships, empower, wins

