



TERRAFORMA CONNECTIONS PATHWAY

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TERRAFORMA CONNECTIONS PATHWAY

The Terraforma Church Connections Pathway is designed to take you from inside our church to alongside our mission in four steps. Our hope is that you would discover your redemptive purpose and live the life God created for you.

stepONE – Welcome Home

Explore the unique DNA of Terraforma Church and find out what makes us tick. You will learn what it means to get involved and how you can join the movement. stepONE takes place the first Sunday of every month.

stepTWO – Gather to Grow

Discover what it looks like to grow spiritually at Terraforma. Learn the reason and the details of our gatherings and offerings designed to help you develop your relationship with God and with others. stepTWO takes place the second Sunday of every month.

stepTHREE – Discover your Design

Dive into the details of your personality, discover your gifts, and see how your unique talents and experiences can be activated to serve with a team at Terraforma. stepTHREE is where you can connect to a team and put your gifts to work. stepTHREE takes place the third Sunday of every month.

stepFOUR – Amplify your Impact

Terraforma has a unique vision to transform our world by building heaven on earth. Learn how you can join our mission by dreaming, building, and creating the future that God has in mind. Learn about our vision for multiplication, our Impact Partners, and why we Scatter to Serve as a church. stepFOUR takes place the fourth Sunday of every month.

stepTWO – GATHER TO GROW

OUR HOPE FOR YOU:

Today at Connections stepTWO, our hope is to help you learn and put into practice what we believe are essential habits of every follower of Jesus. We want to help you understand our vision and systems for spiritual growth, and give you enough information to take steps further in your spiritual journey.

Paul's encouragement to the Colossians is the perfect place to start:

*"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."
Colossians 2:6-7*

INTRODUCTION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Discipleship is a life-long process. Discipleship is a biblical word for spiritual growth – maybe the best way to explain it is **apprenticeship to Jesus**.

_____ -- a critical step on the journey of a disciple is to learn the Way of Jesus, the nature of God, and the essence of God's Kingdom.

_____ – learning isn't the end, nor is it the only goal. To truly be a disciple of Jesus, we need to put into practice what we learn by changing our habits and behaviors to align with the teaching of Jesus.

_____ – the truest measure of discipleship happens in the heart and is evident in the way that people love God and love others. Love is the bottom-line of Christian practice and the most foundational element of Jesus' teaching. Terraforma wants to help you grow in 3 vital relationships:

1. Intimacy with God
2. Community with other disciples
3. Influence in culture

THE FIRST STEP

The First Step of Discipleship is: _____.

Discipleship begins when we acknowledge the Lordship of Jesus over our lives and we surrender our lives to His Way. This is an act of the heart, a conscious choice to trust and surrender to Him as Lord and Savior. This includes trusting in His sacrifice on your behalf to reconcile you to God, and it includes declaring your intention of following Jesus from this moment forward.

At Terraforma Church, we celebrate the choice of each person to trust Jesus with an ancient practice called _____.

If you are ready to be baptized, we would love to answer your questions and make that happen.

FOREVER STEPS

For your next steps, we see spiritual growth happening through six ongoing processes (remember, this is a life-long process!):

1. _____ - Scripture gives us a clear revelation of the person of Jesus and draws us into the Big Story of God's Kingdom. Our weekend services have solid teaching from scripture as their foundation. We work hard to communicate the truth of scripture in compelling and relevant ways.

2. _____ – We believe spiritual growth happens best in context of community, so we do what we can to move people from rows into circles. Our community groups are a place for conversation, friendship, and support. Our community groups meet weekly in homes all around our area and provide a safe place for you to connect, grow, and discuss the issues and challenges of life.

Here are three important details about our groups:

1. *Our groups are "_____."*

2. We have three " _____ " every year.

Our Winter/Spring semester usually goes from January to May and is 12 weeks long.

Our Summer Semester is shorter, going from June to July and is 6 weeks long.

Our Fall Semester usually goes from September to December and is 12 weeks long.

3. You can _____ a group.

We believe that everyone has areas of strength and gifting that could benefit others. Even if you aren't ready to lead the group, you can open up your home to be a group host. We will help find a leader to be your partner. If leading the discussion appeals to you, we'd love to help you get trained.

3. _____ – Terraforma is all about putting our faith into practice, so we invite you into God's story to live out what we learn together. We think that serving and scattering are two of the most important practices for spiritual development. You will grow as you get to work and put into practice your beliefs.

4. **INDIVIDUAL** _____ – One of the best things you can do for your spiritual development is to engage in spiritual practices on your own. Don't allow your spiritual life to be something you engage in once a week for an hour – build habits around spiritual health. Some important spiritual practices every disciple should employ:

a. _____ – learn to talk and listen to God in a conversational way.

b. _____ – become fluent in the teaching of scripture and learn how to read the Bible fruitfully, accepting its teaching and applying them to your life.

c. LISTENING TO THE _____ OF THE _____ – We believe God wants us to learn to listen for the prompting of the Holy Spirit throughout our daily lives.

d. _____ OF OURSELVES – learning to be generous and selfless in moments great and small is an important part of following Jesus.

5. _____ – Periodically, we encourage you to retreat from your every-day routines to center your heart and focus your attention on God. Terraforma offers retreats for families, men, women, and youth. These events are designed to carve out space for reflection, encounter, and spiritual practices. Retreats are a catalyst for growth and an important way to get un-stuck.

6. _____ – the final element in our Spiritual Growth Plan is to offer a spiritual check-up regularly. It is easy to go on autopilot and get stuck in a rut of bad habits or spiritual stagnation. We find that doing some kind of spiritual assessment once a year helps us re-focus and identify areas of growth.

We offer assessments for marriage through a tool called Prepare-Enrich, and you can find a simple Spiritual Health Assessment in the appendix.

Next Steps for Connections step TWO:**Complete all four steps of the Connections Pathway**

- **StepONE** – Welcome Home
- **StepTWO** – Gather to Grow
- **StepTHREE** – Discover your Design
- **StepFOUR** – Amplify your Impact

Consider being baptized as a follower of Jesus

You can find out more from your host or at terraforma.church

Join a Community Group

*You can find our group directory on our website:
terraforma.church/groups*

You can also use the Terraforma App to connect to a group

Start a Bible Reading Plan on YouVersion

www.bible.com/reading-plans

Plan to join Terraforma on a future retreat (check the website or app for details)

Install the Terraforma App to stay connected to the movement

Get into REALM, our church management software for communication and event registrations

I. GUIDE TO PRAYER

James 5:13-16 – ¹³ *Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise.* ¹⁴ *Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.* ¹⁵ *And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.* ¹⁶ *Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.*

Philippians 4:4-9 – ⁴ *Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!* ⁵ *Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.* ⁶ *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.* ⁷ *And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

⁸ *Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.* ⁹ *Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.*

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

How do we learn from Jesus to make prayer a part of our everyday life? Look at the pattern Jesus gave us:

Mark 1:35 - *Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.*

- A CERTAIN TIME

Jesus got up very early in the morning to spend time with His Heavenly Father. It doesn't need to be the morning for you, but it needs to be consistent. Make a daily appointment with God and keep it.

- A CERTAIN PLACE

Jesus had a prayer place. Your prayer place needs to be an undistracted environment where you can pray out loud and perhaps have some worship music playing in the background.

- A CERTAIN PLAN

Go into your prayer time with a plan. If it changes that's fine. When Jesus taught His disciples how to pray, He gave His disciples a prayer outline. We call it the **Lord's Prayer**. The Lord's Prayer doesn't need to be recited over and over, but it can give us a template to follow as we pray.

I. GUIDE TO PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13 -

This, then, is how you should pray:

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one, for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever."

1. **Connect with God Relationally - "Our Father in heaven"**

As our father, we can come before him personally and confidently. Jesus would remind his disciples: your earthly fathers who were broken and corrupted by sin gave good gifts to their children. How much more will your heavenly father give the Holy Spirit to those that ask? This means you don't need to beg or twist God's arm to get him to bless you and help you. God's intentions toward you are good, God's affections for you are pure, and God's love for you is boundless.

2. **Worship His Name - "Hallowed be your name"**

Shift to a posture of worship. God is holy. His name is Holy. This means He cannot be manipulated, He cannot be controlled, and His glory cannot be diminished. These two ideas, God as Father yet Holy, help us balance between intimacy and mystery; between God's nearness and His transcendence.

3. **Align with the Kingdom - "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven"**

Look for what God is doing and join in. Prayer needs to be first about discovering and participating in God's will instead of trying to get God to join our program. It is about relationship.

4. **Seek Help from the Right Source - "Give us today our daily bread"**

God is the source of help; don't rely on yourself. God knows what we need even before we ask it, so simple prayer is good. Let God be the one who heals, who redeems, who changes hearts. One of the clearest teachings of Jesus about prayer is that no fancy words are required. What we find in the prayers recorded in scripture is surprising honesty, raw vulnerability, and even imperfect theology. If you read the Psalms and study the way people prayed, even those that wrote the scriptures, you will find this to be true. It is so important to remember that the Holy Spirit is the source of help.

5. Keep Your Heart Right with God and People - "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."

Prayer is a place where we seek transformation. Prayer draws us closer to the heart of God and helps transform us. Ask God to check your heart and motives. Receive His forgiveness for any area that He brings to mind. Prayer is a place of vulnerability and honesty. We need to honor this vulnerability with grace and truth. Remember as relational creatures, our relationships with others can impact our relationship with God. Prayer is also a place where we forgive anyone who has offended us in any way.

6. Ask for Help to Live it Out - "Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one"

Good prayer ends looking for ways to put into practice the grace we have received from God. Good prayer leads us to obedience and to walk in grace and truth. This is the point where we can ask for guidance and grace toward practical next steps. What should we do next? How should we live in response to God's mercy?

II. SCRIPTURE READING GUIDE

Developing the skill of studying and understanding scripture is one of the most fruitful disciplines to grow spiritually. The Bible is a unique book and it requires that you learn some unique skills as you interact with the content of scripture. It can take a while to learn, but it is worth the investment!

2 Timothy 3:16-17 -

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

The central purpose of scripture is not doctrinal purity but inner transformation. We come to scripture to be changed, not to amass information! **The price for clarity is study.** We study in the pursuit of transformation. We study because we have in scripture the words of God waiting to be encountered!

1. Start with INTERPRETATION.

The study of scripture starts with interpretation, or understanding what the text means. **To understand what the text means today, we first have to ask what the text meant to its original audience.** We are seeking comprehension. We are seeking what the text meant to its original audience intended by its original author. This process is called "exegesis." Often, people skip this important and essential step in the process. They jump to application and skip comprehension and interpretation. If we skip this step we will find in scripture what we assume beforehand we will find; it will confirm our bias. We will discover nothing as a result. Study is the discipline of humbly seeking understanding. It is the process of placing ourselves under the text to discover its meaning and intent.

*****Key Question – What did it mean THEN?**

This is about understanding context (historical and literary context). Try to ask questions to get an idea of the historical and cultural context of the author and the original audience. This can help us figure out what it meant, and when we know what it meant then we can learn what it means and what it cannot mean now. Cultural context has to do with the time, place, and situation of the author and his original readers. Literary context has to do with the relationship between words, sentences, paragraphs, and arguments.

*****Key Question – What was the POINT?**

This is about understanding content. This is about tracing the rhetoric of the author and asking "why?" Even if you can't get every detail about the historical and cultural context, you can still probably take a good guess and understanding the point.

****Tip - Context is the Key to Understanding Content!**

****Tip - When In Doubt, Zoom Out!**

2. Next move to APPLICATION. Once you have a solid understanding of what the text meant, then you can turn to the question of application, or what does the text mean to me today?

In scripture, we have more than the words of ancient people to their ancient communities. We have behind these words the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the same Holy Spirit that wants to encounter us and guide us into truth. This is why we cannot just study the Bible academically. ***We must learn to also submit to the truth of scripture spiritually!*** Devotional reading is tied closely with prayer, and often done with a pen and journal. In devotional reading, reflection is key. Devotional reading is a way of entering into a conversation or a relationship with the text. This way of reading entails a willingness to be vulnerable to the message of the text, submitting to its authority, allowing it time to penetrate your thinking and feeling.

*****Key Question – Where is God/What do I learn about God here?**

Ask God to speak to you and meet you in scripture. Devotional reading is about encounter. This also means that reading scripture primarily looking for truth about God will help us more than reading scripture primarily looking for practical help.

*****Key Question – How can I be more like Jesus?**

When we read scripture expecting to encounter the Living God in His Living Word, we go beyond a purely intellectual exercise and enter a spiritual discipline. Imagine yourself in the story, submit yourself to the instruction, lend your voice to the prayer/song, or open your eyes to the beauty of God.

III. HOLISTIC SPIRITUAL FORMATION ASSESSMENT

One of the greatest mistakes of modern spirituality is the compartmentalization of life. We tend to believe that our life is broken up into neat sections, and that dysfunction in one area will not affect the other areas. In truth, your whole life matters to God, and your whole person is interconnected. This guide is provided as an exercise of holistic examination. How are you growing, stagnating, or regressing in these areas? Our prayer is that in evaluation you can disrupt the drift and take responsibility for your formation.

For each area, spend some time first thanking God for what is going right. Then identify any areas of growth, and set a couple reasonable and measurable goals to move toward where you want to be.

1. Faith Formation – *How is your relationship with God?*

What are my current strengths?

What needs further development?

My specific plans and goals for growth:

What structure and accountability will help me in the process?

2. Emotional and Personal Formation – *How is your relationship with self? (balance, maturity, identity, character, etc.)*

What are my current strengths?

What needs further development?

My specific plans and goals for growth:

What structure and accountability will help me in the process?

3. Social and Interpersonal Formation – *How are your relationships with others?*

What are my current strengths?

What needs further development?

My specific plans and goals for growth:

What structure and accountability will help me in the process?

4. Vocational Formation – *Are you finding fulfillment and purpose in life and work?*

What are my current strengths?

What needs further development?

My specific plans and goals for growth:

What structure and accountability will help me in the process?

5. Intellectual Formation – *Are you growing in knowledge, skill, curiosity, creativity, and imagination?*

What are my current strengths?

What needs further development?

My specific plans and goals for growth:

What structure and accountability will help me in the process?

6. Health and Wellness Formation – *How are you caring for your body and actively pursuing well-being? (play, nutrition, rest, exercise)*

What are my current strengths?

What needs further development?

My specific plans and goals for growth:

What structure and accountability will help me in the process?

7. Financial Formation – *How is your relationship with money? Are you satisfied with your current financial situation? Are you growing in generosity and contentment?*

What are my current strengths?

What needs further development?

My specific plans and goals for growth:

What structure and accountability will help me in the process?

IV. BAPTISM STUDY

1. A powerful symbol of our death with Christ. Colossians 2:12 – *“For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with Him you were raised to a new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.”*

In baptism, the reality of your death to sin and self are dramatically depicted as you are “buried” under the water. The person I once was: self-centered, unforgiven, alienated from the life of God – is no more. Baptism depicts physically the spiritual reality of your total surrender to Jesus. Your old self, ruled by sin and selfish desires is put into the grave and Jesus becomes the master of your life. This is the main reason why we practice baptism by immersion. Total immersion in water is a powerful symbol of burial and resurrection.

2. A powerful symbol of our new life in Christ. Romans 6:4 – *“For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.”*

Just as going down into the water powerfully symbolizes the death of your old self, rising from the waters of baptism is a poignant depiction of our new life in Christ! Now, with God’s help, we can walk according to the ways of Jesus and experience life in His Kingdom. Baptism is a vivid symbol of the Gospel: Christ was alive and died for our sins; we were dead and became alive in Christ! In baptism, we are invited to experience this reality in an emotive way.

3. A public declaration of our faith in Christ. Acts 2:37-38 – *“Peter’s words convicted them deeply, and they said to him, ‘Brothers, what should we do?’ Peter replied, ‘Each of you must turn from your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.’”*

Baptism in the New Testament was about “going public.” It was not a private ceremony, it was a public event. One of the purposes of baptism is to publically identify with Christ and to declare your intention to follow His ways.

4. A rite of initiation into the community of faith. Acts 8:12-13 – *“But now the people believed Philip’s message of Good News concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. As a result, many men and women were baptized. Then Simon himself believed and was baptized.”*

Baptism is more than just a solitary choice; it is also a corporate celebration of what Jesus has done in your life. In this way, baptism serves as the rite of initiation into discipleship. We take this seriously; it is a covenant with God like marriage. Baptism candidates are reviewed by our elders, not so we can restrict who belongs to an exclusive club, but so we can help ensure that they really understand what it means to pledge their faith to Christ and join into discipleship.