

Your **NEW**
LIFE Journey
Starts Here

*A Place Where Your Life In
Jesus Is Encouraged To Grow!*



AND



EVERY NATION
RESOURCES

YOUR NEW LIFE JOURNEY

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Welcome to New Life

Our journey started here

In the early 1950s, a revival was stirring in Landisburg as God was beginning to lay the foundation for our Assembly. For several months, a man named Walter Kronberg held tent revival services where our current cemetery is today; as well as in the old schoolhouse on Lower St. in Landisburg.

In 1952, the Assemblies of God felt that a new church should be formally started in the Landisburg area. Rev. Anthony Sorbo and his family moved to the area on April 19th, 1954, and held the first service on Easter Sunday night at the Landisburg Fire Hall with thirty people present. On September 13, 1954, the group moved to a vacated schoolhouse. Seeing the need for a permanent place of worship, a down payment was made on a two-acre lot, on October 30th, 1954. As God was moving, the Clouse family donated the land that our current fellowship hall sits on today. The additional land that we now own was purchased from the Stum family so that we could expand our facility.

On November 24th, 1954, a special meeting was called to organize the church with a formal constitution and by-laws. On January 5th, 1955, the new group elected officers, and plans were made to build a concrete block basement church that now sits below our current fellowship hall. That same month, further plans were made to continue the building and finish the structure. In September of 1958, upon the arrival of the new pastor, Rev. F. Eber Reitzel, the congregation decided to finish the main auditorium (our fellowship hall). April 6th, 1958, was a momentous day. This was the day that Landisburg Assembly of God Church was dedicated to the Lord, in hopes that this sanctuary would be *a house of prayer!* In 1966, plans were made to build a ranch-style parsonage next to the church. The work began in July of that year and was completed by that November. In 1974, Pastor Ronald Briggs came to pastor our church. It was during this time the main sanctuary was added and the church was rebranded as New Life Assembly.

God continues to bless the work that He began in Landisburg and we are convinced that the best is yet to come!

Our journey continues through you

At New Life, we're committed to making sure that you won't be met with shame, guilt, or condemnation. Our church is made up of imperfect people with imperfect stories. The best part is, no matter what you've been through or what questions you might have about God and faith, our church is a place where you'll find the love, grace, and forgiveness Jesus gives everyone. Most importantly, wherever you're at within your spiritual journey, you'll always find encouragement to grow closer to Jesus right here at New Life.

How do we live up to this commitment?

This is *why* New Life exists! To be:

A place where your life in Jesus is encouraged to grow

We believe each of us contributes to New Life's existence when:

We live in and give out New Life!

We believe that *we live in and give out New Life* when we **practice** our Core Values:

ONE: Biblical Growth. This means: *We equip all ages to accurately discover the Bible and apply it daily.*

TWO: Life-Giving Relationships. This means: *We strive to create life-giving relationships that promote and develop the image of Jesus within us.*

THREE: Selfless Generosity. This means: *We give generously of our time and resources to advance Jesus' mission and to invest in life-changing moments, without expectation.*

FOUR: Genuine Compassion. This means: *We strive to follow Jesus' example of caring for and serving others, regardless of their past or present circumstances.*

How do we prepare the foundation for these values?

Our strategy is simple! We **encourage** you: to **establish** biblical foundations, be **equipped** to serve, and **engage** your community.

Welcome to New Life Assembly!

1 We Encourage You!

At New Life, we will encourage you to become a disciple of Jesus. To do this, we need to first define: *what is a disciple*.

A clearly defined and commonly shared definition of discipleship is important because it is the starting point for creating an integrated, effective process of making disciples.

While some definitions of discipleship have complicated the idea in the minds of many believers, Jesus never intended for discipleship to be complicated. Difficult, yes. Complicated, no.

In fact, discipleship is so simple that two thousand years ago, a carpenter explained it to uneducated fishermen in one sentence:

And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

MATTHEW 4:19

When Jesus calls someone to be His disciple, He makes a threefold call.

1. Discipleship is a call to _____ ⁽¹⁾ Jesus.

The starting point of being a disciple is the decision to follow Jesus.

*And he said to them, "**Follow me**, and I will make you fishers of men."*

MATTHEW 4:19

The original disciples were able to physically follow Jesus as He ministered around Galilee (*northern Israel*). During Paul's time, Jesus was no longer walking the earth in flesh and blood. Paul taught the Corinthian believers to follow Jesus by imitating and following godly people.

*Be imitators **of me**, as I am **of Christ**.*

1 CORINTHIANS 11:1

2. Discipleship is a call to _____ ⁽²⁾ for people.

Following Jesus does not mean we cut off all contact with non-Christians. Rather, we should continue in our relationships so that Christ's love can

flow through us to others. As soon as Matthew answered the call to follow Jesus, he threw a party at his house so all his old friends could meet Jesus, including his new friends.

As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

MATTHEW 9:9-13

3. Discipleship is a call to _____ (3) with other believers.

When Jesus called Matthew to follow Him, Matthew had to follow along with Peter and John. He was not given the option of following Jesus alone. Discipleship is and always has been a group project. Their faith was lived in a community with other followers. Biblical fellowship is more than greeting a few church members in the lobby before and after service. Real fellowship is an intentional, Christ-centered relationship.

*And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the **fellowship**, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*

ACTS 2:42

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

1 JOHN 1:7

We **encourage** you to become a **disciple** of Jesus because:

1. Every person is _____ (4) to God.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

JOHN 3:16

Value is determined by the price one is willing to pay. God paid the ultimate price to redeem the lost. Since God places such a high value

on lost people, we must learn to see them the way He sees them.

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

MATTHEW 9:36

2. We believe ministers prepare others to _____ (5).

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds, and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ . . .

EPHESIANS 4:11-12

The Protestant reformation emphasized the priesthood of all believers, restoring the biblical pattern of relating to God. The modern church needs a “discipleship reformation” that will emphasize the ministry of all believers, restoring the biblical pattern of ministry. The job of the “minister” is to prepare others to minister, not to do all the ministry. The goal is to get ministry out of the hands of experts and into the hands of every believer.

3. Every disciple should make _____ (6).

Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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 28:18, 19

Too often, we act like only full-time ministers or people who have been Christians for a long time can make disciples. Jesus’ command to make disciples in Matthew 28 was given to fishermen and tax collectors who questioned, doubted, and even denied Jesus. Spiritual progress, not perfection, qualifies a person to make disciples:

- No matter where you work
- No matter what your age
- No matter when you started following Jesus

SUMMARY

Discipleship is a relationship on three levels—with God, lost people, and God’s people. **Therefore, we encourage you to: establish biblical foundations, be equipped to serve, and engage your community.**

DISCUSSION QUESTION

- Where are you in your discipleship journey?
- What question might you have about New Life?

2 To Establish Biblical Foundations

At New Life, we **encourage** you to **establish** biblical foundations so that you can develop **Biblical Growth**. Jesus once said that,

“ Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

MATTHEW 7:24-27

Foundations are not the most exciting part of a building project, nor are they the most attractive part of the finished building. Yet they are vitally important, determining both the strength and the ultimate size of the building. The same is true with biblical foundations. These often, unseen foundations predict future growth and determine the potential for spiritual life.

The first goal of discipleship is to establish biblical foundations in the life of each disciple. The following Scriptures teach three important truths about foundations.

1. _____ ⁽¹⁾ is the ultimate foundation.

*For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is **Jesus Christ**.*

1 CORINTHIANS 3:11

2. _____⁽²⁾ establishes biblical foundations.

*“Everyone then who **hears these words of mine and does them** will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.”*

MATTHEW 7:24, 25

3. _____⁽³⁾ is foundational.

But God’s firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity.”

2 TIMOTHY 2:19

We believe that if we want to make strong disciples here at New Life, who **establish biblical foundations and develop **Biblical Growth**, we must establish them in *the faith, the Word and prayer, and the church community.***

1. Establish in the _____⁽⁴⁾.

The starting point for disciples is building their lives on Jesus— the ultimate foundation upon which everything else is built. *Paul once said,*

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder, I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1 CORINTHIANS 3:10, 11

Establishing someone in the faith looks different with different people in different contexts—but *we believe* it always involves *repentance, faith in Jesus, and baptism in water and the Holy Spirit.*

And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

ACTS 2:38

2. Establish in the _____⁽⁵⁾ and prayer.

After a person is established in the faith, the next step is to start a personal habit of daily Bible reading and prayer. No one can survive the storms of life without deep roots in God's Word.

Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock."

MATTHEW 7:24, 25

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation . . .

1 PETER 2:2

And they devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

ACTS 2:42

At New Life, we encourage you to daily read through the Bible by using the following two tools: Bible.com (a.k.a. the YouVersion Bible App) and the acronym S.O.A.P.P. as you read the Bible. For example:

One Scripture: (Jesus said) *The Father and I are one.* John 10:30

One Observation: To be one with someone is to be very close!

One Application: I can turn *me* time into more *we* time with Jesus.

One Prayer: Jesus, please teach me how to be more one with you.

One Person: (Name of person) Have you ever felt close to Jesus?

Take a few moments today and explore the Bible App or website. Then practice using the acronym S.O.A.P.P. with one scripture. We recommend reading 1 John first.

One Scripture:

One Observation:

One Application:

One Prayer:

One Person:

3. Establish in the _____⁽⁶⁾ community.

When Jesus called His first disciples to follow Him, they had to follow along with other disciples. They were added to the group, His small community of cross-carrying disciples.

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

JOHN 13:34, 35

When Jesus ascended to heaven, His disciples continued to meet together—understanding that living in community was essential for enduring persecution and for obeying Jesus’ command to make disciples of all nations.

So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

ACTS 2:41

SUMMARY

Too many Christians are leaning and falling, not because of the intensity of the storms, but because of weak foundations. It is not enough to have a good facade; we must build strong foundations on Christ by establishing believers in the faith, Word and prayer, and church community.

We encourage you to establish biblical foundations so that you can develop Biblical Growth. Therefore, we want to invite you to pick up THE PURPLE BOOK (this is a twelve-part Bible study to help believers stand firm and grow strong in the Christian life) and to partner with one of our New Life Discipleship Coaches so that they can encourage you as you establish the following foundations:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ➤ Sin and Salvation | ➤ Spiritual Family/Church Life |
| ➤ Lordship and Obedience | ➤ Prayer and Worship |
| ➤ Repentance and Baptism | ➤ Faith and Hope |
| ➤ The Holy Spirit/Spiritual Gifts | ➤ Biblical Prosperity/Generosity |
| ➤ Spiritual Hunger/God’s Word | ➤ Evangelism/World Missions |
| ➤ Discipleship and Leadership | ➤ Resurrection and Judgment |

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Who helped you establish foundations when you first started following Jesus? How did they help establish foundations?
- What other questions might you have about New Life?

3 Be Equipped To Serve

*All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself **and gave us the ministry of reconciliation**; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, **and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.***

2 CORINTHIANS 5:18, 19

The biblical job description for professional ministers—*apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers*—is to **equip** believers to minister, then get out of their way.

Paul said,

*And he (Jesus) gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, **to equip the saints for the work of ministry**, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ . . .*

EPHESIANS 4:11–13

At New Life, we encourage you to be equipped to serve. However, most people believe in (what Steve Murrell calls) Discipleship Myths!

There are three popular discipleship myths surrounding—**mentoring, ministry, and maturity**. Let's take a look at each of them.

1. Mentors

Paul, who started ministering to others as soon as he had his life-changing encounter with Jesus, wrote about the link between ministry and maturity in his letter to the Ephesians.

And he (Jesus) gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds, and teachers . . .

EPHESIANS 4:11

The Myth: My pastor's primary role is to _____⁽¹⁾ to me.

This myth causes church people to demand that pastors spoon-feed them and meet all their spiritual needs, turning pastors into spiritual superheroes and regular Christians into passive spectators at (*weekly*) religious shows.

The Truth: My pastor's primary role is to _____⁽²⁾ me to minister.

A pastor's job is not primarily to minister to people but to equip people to minister to others. Life, church, and ministry are not primarily about the people in the pews. They are about God and others.

2. Ministry

*... to equip the saints **for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ**...*

EPHESIANS 4:12

The Myth: I'm _____⁽³⁾ yet ready to be used by God.

This myth convinces people they don't pray enough, aren't mature enough, don't know enough Bible verses, have too many past sins, and are too young (or old) to engage in ministry.

The Truth: God is _____⁽⁴⁾ to use me.

While some members may not feel ready yet, God is ready to use them now. Even if they're too young or lost their temper yesterday and used a word the pastor would never use on Sunday, God wants to use them.

3. Maturity

... until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ...

EPHESIANS 4:13

The Myth: No one should _____⁽⁵⁾ until he or she is mature.

This myth convinces believers that before they even attempt to minister to others, they need at least ten years of experience and a framed certificate on their wall. Only then would they possibly be mature enough to be used by God.

The Truth: We will _____⁽⁶⁾ as we minister.

We can't wait until every believer feels mature enough to minister

because no one will mature until they minister. This is one of those chicken and egg conundrums. Which comes first— ministry or maturity? When we look at the Bible, it seems that ministry does.

You might be asking yourself: *how can I start ministering today?* We encourage you to practice: **B.E.L.L.S. (From *Surprise the World: The Five Habits of Highly Missional People* by Michael Frost).**

Bless: Strengthen three people this week through acts of generosity. One of whom is not a member of our church.

Eat: Practice hospitality by eating with three people this week. One of whom is not a member of our church.

Listen: Practice being Spirit-led by spending reflective time throughout the day listening for the Spirit's voice.

Learn: Practice being like Jesus by learning more about Him in the Word.

Sent: Practice being missional by journaling throughout the week about all the ways you alerted and encouraged others on their spiritual journey.

We encourage you to consider volunteering for one of our NL Teams:

- | | |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| ➤ Kids | ➤ Care |
| ➤ Youth | ➤ Worship/Media |
| ➤ Men's | ➤ The New Life Journey |
| ➤ Women's | ➤ Coffee and Connection |
| ➤ Legacy | ➤ Welcome and Follow-Up |

For more detail on how we equip you for each Team, please feel free to read through our current Team and Group Leader Handbook, as well as our Volunteer Training Manual on our website:

landisburag.com/resources

Let your instructor know that you are interested in getting involved.

SUMMARY

God is ready to use us and mature us as we minister.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Which discipleship myths have you believed in the past? Why?

4 To Engage Your Community

“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

Before we get started, we want to clarify a few terms. The Bible uses several words to describe those who do not follow Jesus. Terms like: *lost* and *sinner*. These terms can come across as strong, and even offensive, however, let's take a moment to put them into context.

First, let's look at the term: *lost*. The Bible refers to individuals as being lost because we lost our unimpeded access to God at the fall of humanity in Genesis 3. Sin came into the world through an act of disobedience and has cut us off from our relationship with God. Each of us is now born separated from Him and we are unable to find our own way back to Him and are therefore considered *lost*.

Second, let's look at the term: *sinner*. Because we are born separated from God at birth, we are, by nature, born with the desire to defy God's divine law (*to love Him and love others*) by focusing on loving ourselves above all else.

In this teaching you will see the terms: *lost* and *sinner*, however just know that they are referring to those who are unfollowers of Jesus (*the One who ultimately finds us and gives us a new identity in Him*).

When Jesus told His disciples to go and make disciples of all nations, none of them thought He meant for them to gather up all those who already followed Jesus and help them do it better. They were under no illusion that they could obey Jesus' command without actively engaging *the un-follower*.

How do we engage unfollowers (*lost*) in our community?

In Luke 15, Jesus tells three parables which help us understand what it looks like to engage the lost. In order to effectively engage the lost, we must understand four key concepts:

1. Be a friend of _____⁽¹⁾.

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

LUKE 15:1, 2

Setting up the context for the parables, Luke describes a situation that occurred rather frequently in Jesus' life and ministry: Jesus was found spending time with religious outsiders—tax collectors, prostitutes, Samaritans, and lepers. This intentional engagement with lost people earned Him the pejorative label "friend of sinners".

"The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!'"

LUKE 7:34

2. Leave the _____⁽²⁾.

So he told them this parable: "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.'"

LUKE 15:3-6

Engaging the lost usually involves moving out of our comfort zones. Why? Because lost people generally don't hang out in the same places that Christians do. Hoping that unbelievers will randomly walk into our church is naive and lazy.

Jesus gave the greatest demonstration of engaging culture and community when He left the streets of gold in heaven to walk the dirt roads of the Roman Empire. Showing up on earth was just the beginning. While here, He was the expert at engaging all types of cultures and communities that were

traditionally disenfranchised by the religious elite.

3. Don't quit _____⁽³⁾ **the lost are found.**

*"What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, **until** he finds it?"*

LUKE 15:4

*"Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently **until** she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.'"*

LUKE 15:8, 9

Just like the shepherd who went out and searched for the lost sheep until he found it, and just like the woman who searched her house until she found the lost coin, so we should persistently pray for and engage the lost until they are found in Christ. This often involves building long-term relational bridges with lost people.

4. **Celebrate the lost being** _____⁽⁴⁾.

*"And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for **I have found my sheep that was lost.**'"*

LUKE 15:5, 6

*"And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for **I have found the coin that I had lost.**' Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."*

LUKE 15:9, 10

*"And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him . . . And 'bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴For this my son was dead, and is alive again; **he was lost, and is found.**' And they began to celebrate."*

LUKE 15:20, 23, 24

All three parables have this in common—there is great rejoicing when the lost are found. The parable of the lost son gives us the fullest insight into how our Father responds when sinners repent. He throws a party. Do we respond like our Father when lost sons and daughters come home or do we respond like the self-righteous elder brother? Engaging culture and community will result in the lost being found as the gospel is preached.

We encourage you to share the Gospel with unfollowers, but how?

Because people are valuable to God, we must boldly, intentionally, and strategically engage our culture and community, in order to have an opportunity to preach the gospel.

1. S_____ ⁽⁵⁾ a conversation.

Preaching the gospel begins by starting a conversation and getting to know someone who doesn't know Jesus yet.

We encourage you to look for and bring attention to a bridge. For example, are they wearing a shirt or hat (the bridge) of a sports team you like (or don't like)? Are they reading a book (the bridge) you like? Are they eating alone (the bridge)? Find a bridge you have in common and cross it.

2. A_____ ⁽⁶⁾ questions.

Ask questions about the person that lead to spiritual matters, in an effort to help inch him or her closer towards God.

We encourage you to ask open-ended questions that start with words like: *How... How would you... What is... What are... What if... What would...* These types of question starters open people up by avoiding simple yes/no answers.

3. L_____ ⁽⁷⁾.

Listen sincerely and respectfully to the answers.

4. T_____ ⁽⁸⁾ the story.

We encourage you to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit in the moment. Not all conversations lead to a Gospel presentation. Perhaps just making a friendly connection was the first step for that person. Never force the conversation. Let the Holy Spirit set the moment up for you. However, be prepared to *tell the story* when He does.

Do this by sharing your two-minute miracle and giving a simple and clear presentation of the gospel.

What is your two-minute miracle?

Your two-minute miracle, or your testimony, is your personal, irrefutable account of what Jesus has done for you and how He has changed your life. It is a verbal declaration of what you have seen, heard, and experienced. Jesus will use your testimony to make an impact on others. Though people can argue about doctrines or teachings, no one can argue with a changed life.

The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

LUKE 8:38, 39

We encourage you to understand your two-minute miracle and not just memorize it. No two conversations are the same. They each have their own flow and when we memorize a script, it will come across as just that, a script. When we understand something, we can talk freely about it.

Three Parts of Your Two-Minute Miracle

1. _____⁽⁹⁾ Christ

What beliefs, actions, and sins characterized your old life? What were their consequences?

- Briefly describe your life before Christ.
- Be discreet and don't bring glory to your old life.

2. _____ ⁽¹⁰⁾ **Christ**

What truths and circumstances brought you to the point of making Jesus your Lord? How did you respond?

- Carefully explain how you came to the point of submitting your life to Christ.
- Be specific and paint the picture of how you responded and what repentance (*turning*) looked like.

3. _____ ⁽¹¹⁾ **Christ**

How did God's love and leadership change your life, and how is it continually changing you?

- Joyfully describe your life since Jesus became Lord.
- Give practical and specific examples of ongoing benefits of following Christ (i.e. forgiveness, new life purpose, victory, etc.).
- Take more time to explain how your life has changed since you surrendered to Christ.

We encourage you to memorize the: *Two-Verse Evangelism*

Whichever tool you use, the goal is to clearly paint a picture of God's plan for salvation and redemption, and how we can respond to it.

*. . . **Everyone** has sinned and fallen short of God's glorious standard.*

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

1. All have sinned...

Everyone has sinned. Sin is any act of disobedience or rebellion against God and, the truth is, not a single person on earth has perfectly obeyed God's commandments. We all fall short of God's glorious standard. Because we've compiled a long record of sins, we are utterly incapable of saving ourselves from sin. (**NOTE: Read Romans 3:21-26; 6:1-23 and Galatians 5:16-26**)

2. The wages of sin is death...

Since we've all sinned, we are sinners, and we have been separated from God, who is holy and righteous. No matter how inconsequential or huge we think our sin is, because of it, we deserve death and are disqualified from even being in God's presence. Those who refuse to know and believe in God will be separated eternally from God's presence in a place called hell.

3. God gives the free gift of eternal life...

The good news is salvation is a free gift from God! Our good works or religious deeds cannot ever give us eternal life. Otherwise, people will be boasting in heaven on how they got there through their righteous acts (Ephesians 2:8, 9). The truth is, we can only go to heaven because of what God has done for us—and it is the free gift of eternal life. Eternal life starts by knowing God and having a personal relationship with Him (John 17:3).

4. In Christ Jesus our Lord...

Salvation is found in Christ alone because it was Jesus who died on the cross for our sins. He took our place on the cross, when we should have died for our own sins. He died, was buried, and rose from the dead on

the third day to set us right with God. So if you confess with your mouth that “Jesus is Lord and Master” of your life, and in your heart you have faith that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved (Romans 10:9).

SUMMARY

Because people are valuable to God, we must intentionally and strategically engage our culture and community with the gospel. This can start with your two-minute miracle. As we engage, we are choosing to be like Christ—leaving the ninety-nine and going after the one.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

ROMANS 1:16

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Would anyone accuse you of being a friend of sinners? Why or why not?
- How are you actively and intentionally engaging your culture and community?
- What’s your two-minute miracle? To whom can you share the gospel?

What's Next?

Water Baptism

We believe that water baptism immerses us into the story of Jesus!

For thousands of years, baptism has been a defining mark of followers of Jesus. Jesus started His ministry with baptism and then included baptism in His final command to His followers at the end of His earthly ministry. When we take the step of being baptized, it immerses us into the story of Jesus. It publicly symbolizes us burying the old under the water and then being raised in (His resurrection) to new life in Him. Baptism also serves as a reminder of the forgiveness, freedom, and relationship He initiated with you. Some days, we find ourselves wrestling with old hurts, habits, and hang-ups. Some days, we just don't feel like Jesus is very close. Those are the days when we can cling to that moment of baptism to remember that it's not about what we've done for Jesus, but what Jesus has done for us.

If you have made a decision to follow Jesus and have not yet been water baptized, we would love to be a part of that step in your faith journey!

Membership

We believe membership in the early Church was marked by several characteristics that each individual possessed, and therefore, those who seek to become members of this assembly should seek to embody the same. According to Acts 2:42-47, each individual member was faithfully devoted to following the instruction and training (teachings) of the church leaders (Acts 2:42). Their heart was mutually linked to other believers, causing them to come together corporately and pray with one another (Acts 2:42). The individual had a deep sense of holy awe towards God (Acts 2:43). Individuals were in fellowship as one body (Acts 2:44). The individual was full of generosity (Acts 2:45). The individual made a daily effort to meet together with other believers in the temple courts and in one another's homes to celebrate communion (Acts 2:46). The individual had a heart of sharing, and a joyful heart which was evident in their tender humility (Acts 2:46). The individual was continually filled with praises to God, they enjoyed the favor of all the people, and their efforts to fulfill the Great Commission were blessed with success (Acts 2:47).

We invite you to attend one of our Membership Classes which are offered on months that have a fifth (5th) Sunday. Check our calendar for dates.

ANSWERS

We Encourage You

1. Follow
2. Fish
3. Fellowship
4. Valuable
5. Minister
6. Disciples

Be Equipped to Serve

1. Minister
2. Equip
3. Not
4. Ready
5. Minister
6. Mature

To Establish Biblical Foundations

1. Jesus
2. Obedience
3. Repentance
4. Faith
5. Word
6. Church

To Engage Your Community

1. Sinners
2. Ninety-nine
3. Until
4. Found
5. Start
6. Ask
7. Listen
8. Tell
9. Before
10. Meeting
11. In

