



# **GROWTH TRACK**

**WEEK ONE**



WE LOVE  
*you*  
ALREADY

## OUR VISION

WE WANT TO INTRODUCE PEOPLE TO *Jesus Christ* AND THE  
LIFE-CHANGING *power* OF HIS PRESENCE TO SEE THEM  
BECOME DISCIPLES ON DISPLAY FOR THE *glory of God*.

## OUR MISSION

TO MAKE *Heaven* CROWDED BY SHARING JESUS WITH  
OUR COMMUNITIES—WE'RE *committed* TO RIGHTING THE  
WRONGS IN WACO.

## OUR STRATEGY

*Gather* IN WORSHIP & KNOW GOD.

*Grow* IN COMMUNITY & FIND FREEDOM.

*Go* IN ACTION & DISCOVER PURPOSE.

*Repeat* UNTIL CHRIST RETURNS FOR HIS CHURCH.

# WEEK ONE

## *Who is Jesus?*

### **& HOW CAN I HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM?**

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

This class will help you better connect with God by adopting fundamental truths and disciplines.

Additionally, we hope to ignite a passion in you for continued and sustainable life-change through a Connect Group.

***"...that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God."***

— COLOSSIANS 4:12 (NKJV)

***"Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves... we will grow"***

— EPHESIANS 4:14-15 (NIV)

***"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen."***

— 2 PETER 3:18 (NIV)

# YOUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY CONSISTS OF 4 STEPS

## 1 GET TO KNOW GOD

"[I pray]... that you may know Him better [personally]."

— EPHESIANS 1:17-18 (NIV)

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you.'"

— MATTHEW 7:21-23 (NIV)

## 2 FIND FREEDOM

"[I pray]... that the eyes of your heart be enlightened [focused and clear]."

— EPHESIANS 1:17-18 (NIV)

"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed."

— JAMES 5:16 (NIV)

## 3 DISCOVER YOUR PURPOSE

"[I pray]... that you may know the hope to which he has called you."

— EPHESIANS 1:17-18 (NIV)

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given us." — ROMANS 12:6 (NIV)

"All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it."

— 1 CORINTHIANS 12:27 (NLT)

## 4 MAKE A DIFFERENCE

"[I pray]... that you may grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life he has for his followers [in his holy people]."

— EPHESIANS 1:17-18 (NIV)

"This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."

— JOHN 15:8, 11 (NIV)

"God has given gifts to each of you from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."

— 1 PETER 4:10 (NLT)

# RELATIONSHIP

**SIN BREAKS OUR CLOSE  
RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. IT  
CAUSES US TO FEAR GOD AND  
TRY TO LIVE OUR LIVES OUTSIDE  
OF HIS WILL.**

God has already done His part to restore our relationship to Him. He took the initiative. Now He waits for each of us to individually accept what He has done for us.

*"The wages of sin is death, BUT the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

— ROMANS 6:23 (NIV)

*"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

— ROMANS 5:8 (NIV)

*"God is on one side and all people are on the other side, and Christ Jesus is between them to bring them together, by giving His life for all mankind."*

— 1 TIMOTHY 2:5 (TLB)

# HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

*It's all about Jesus*

## 1 ACKNOWLEDGE

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

*"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." – 1 JOHN 1:9 (NIV)*

## 2 BELIEVE

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

*"If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved." – ROMANS 10:9-10 (NLT)*

*"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name [Jesus] under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." – ACTS 4:12 (NIV)*

*"We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him." – 1 THESSALONIANS 4:14 (NIV)*

## 3 INVITE

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

*"To all who received him, he gave the right to become children of God. All they needed to do was to trust him to save them. All those who believe this are reborn! – not a physical rebirth resulting from human passion or plan – but from the will of God." – JOHN 1:12-13 (NLT)*

## 4 ACCEPT

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

*"For it is by grace you are saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast." – EPHESIANS 2:8,9 (NIV)*

Our relationship with God is not restored by anything we do, but on the basis of what Jesus already did for us.

*"Listen! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in..." – REVELATION 3:20 (HCSB)*

*"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." – ROMANS 10:13 (NLT)*

## **PRAY A SIMPLE PRAYER OF COMMITMENT TO GOD**

"Dear Jesus, thank you for creating me and for loving me even when I've ignored you and gone my own way. I realize I need you in my life, and I'm sorry for my sins. I ask you to forgive me. Thank you for dying on the cross for me. As much as I know how, I want to follow You from now on. Please come into my life and make me a new person inside. I accept your gift of salvation. Please help me to grow now as a Christian."



# WATER BAPTISM

*Declaring* **OUTWARDLY WHAT HAPPENS INWARDLY**

**ONCE YOU HAVE MADE A  
DECISION TO FOLLOW CHRIST  
THE NEXT STEP IS WATER  
BAPTISM. WE PRACTICE BAPTISM  
BY IMMERSION IN WATER — THE  
WAY JESUS WAS BAPTIZED AND  
THE WAY THE BIBLE DESCRIBES.**

**BY BEING WATER BAPTIZED, YOU  
ARE:**

1. Following the example set by CHRIST.
2. Demonstrating your CHANGED LIFE.
3. Declaring your commitment PUBLICLY.

*"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove." — MARK 1:9-10 (NIV)*

*"Therefore go 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 (NIV)*

*"Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven." — MATTHEW 10:32-33 (NIV)*

# SALVATION

## RELATIONSHIP *vs.* RELIGION

**FROM THE BEGINNING OF TIME,  
GOD GAVE US A CHOICE OF  
HOW WE COULD BE IN  
RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.**

**IT IS ILLUSTRATED IN THE STORY  
OF THE TWO TREES IN THE  
GARDEN OF EDEN:**

"Now the LORD God has planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground – trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil." – GENESIS 2:8-9 (NIV)

"And the LORD God commanded the man, 'You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.'" – GENESIS 2:16-17 (NIV)

## THE DIFFERENCE:

**1. In relationship with Christ I can receive what has or in religion I can attempt to**

*"You study the scriptures diligently because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life." – JOHN 5:39-40 (NIV)*

**2. In relationship with Christ I can receive or in religion I can try to earn**

*"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." – ROMANS 5:8 (NIV)*

**3. In relationship with Christ I obey through or in religion I obey out of**

*"If you love me, you will obey my commands." – JOHN 14:15 (NIV)*

# SPIRITUAL MATURITY

*Growing up*

**SPIRITUAL MATURITY IS BECOMING LIKE CHRIST.**

"For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to him... should become like his Son."

— ROMANS 8:29 (LV)

**SPIRITUAL MATURITY IS NOT AUTOMATIC, IT IS A PROCESS THAT TAKES TIME AND DISCIPLINE.**

"Take time and trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit."

— 1 TIMOTHY 4:7 (NIV)

# BECOME MORE LIKE CHRIST

## *Habits of a Disciple*

### **CORPORATE WORSHIP**

At Glory Bell Church we place a strong emphasis on corporate worship by gathering every weekend and on Wednesday nights. We believe that as Christians we are now one family who does life together.

### **GET MORE FROM YOUR BIBLE**

1. **ACCEPT** Biblical authority.
2. **ASSIMILATE** Biblical truths.
3. **APPLY** Biblical principles.

### **BIBLE STUDY**

We believe that the Holy Bible is the authoritative Word of God. It alone is the final authority in determining all doctrinal truths. In its original writing, it is inspired, infallible and inerrant and its canon is closed.

There are not, nor will ever be, any other books, verses or ideas added to the Bible or placed beside it as equal in authority or revelation.

# PRAYER

## THE PURPOSE OF DAILY *prayer*

**GIVE DEVOTION TO GOD. GET DIRECTION FROM GOD.**

**GAIN DELIGHT IN GOD. GROW MORE LIKE GOD.**

"One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When He finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray.'"

— LUKE 11:1 (NIV)

"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."

— MATTHEW 6:9-13 (NIV)

**PRAISE**

**PARDON**

**SUPPORT**

**PURPOSE**

**PEOPLE**

**PROVISION**

**PROTECTION**

**OUTREACH**

In the beginning, we were created to have fellowship with God. Because of Adam's fall, Jesus sacrificed Himself to make a relationship with God possible. 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 Christian is to spend time with God daily through prayer.



# COMMUNITY

*"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another."*

— HEBREWS 10:25 (GN)



## **GOD NEVER INTENDED FOR US TO GO THROUGH LIFE ALONE**

Throughout the Bible, we see the importance of being in community. In fact, authentic life- change happens in the context of relationships.

At Glory Bell Church, we believe our church must grow larger and smaller at the same time.

How can our church grow larger yet maintain close relationships?

## **WHY ARE COMMUNITY GROUPS IMPORTANT?**

*"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."*

— ACTS 2:42-47 (NIV)

# COMMUNITY GROUPS

## COMMUNITY GROUPS PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR:

1. Friendship
2. Pastoral Care
3. Spiritual Growth
4. Bible Study
5. Leadership

## HOW TO CONNECT

Connecting at Glory Bell Church is designed to help individuals build deeper relationships through two different and unique branches: Connect Groups and Connect Classes. Our Connect Groups meet once a week in places all around our city, and provide a place for you to connect, grow and discuss the issues and challenges of life.

Regardless of your age, interest or location, we are sure there is a group out there for you. Connect Groups are also where we pray, care for one another and are missed if we don't show up! If you would like to join a Connect Group, simply visit our website and check out the online directory of groups or email us at [connect@gracechurchlive.com](mailto:connect@gracechurchlive.com). We would love for you to get connected.

## TYPES OF COMMUNITY GROUPS

### 1 DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Discipleship groups meet in the homes of other Glory Bell Church members and are either sermon-based or book studies. In these groups individuals have the opportunity to develop deep and meaningful relationships, build community and be disciplined.

### 2 INTEREST GROUPS

Some members join together because of their interests or passions. (sports, golfing, cooking, etc.)

## HOSTING A COMMUNITY GROUP

We believe that everyone has areas of strength and gifting that could benefit others. The first step in becoming a Connect Group leader is to attend the Connect Group Leader Training. These classes are offered throughout the year to give you an overview of what it takes to start a group. You'll discover that it's easier than you think.



# GENEROSITY

The Gospel is the ultimate demonstration of God's generous nature towards mankind. The Bible consistently teaches that God blesses us so that we may bless others.

*"Just as you excel in everything... in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness... see that you also excel in the grace of giving."*

— 2 CORINTHIANS 8:7 (NIV)

## FOUR AREAS OF GIVING

### 1 TIME

We should be generous with our time by pouring what God has lavishly given to us into people we meet and live with. Our multiple volunteer opportunities at Glory Bell Church allow a great outlet for generous giving of your time.

"Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil." — Ephesians 5:15-16 (NASB)

### 2 TALENT

We should generously give of the talents God has equipped us with, to help in the church and serve those around us.

"A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other." — I CORINTHIANS 12:7 (NLT)

During Step Three of the Growth Track we will further discuss and explore ministry gifts.

### 3 MIND

We should generously share the knowledge that God has given to each of us with people who know little about following Christ. We are taught in scripture that we should have the "mind of Christ," so we should think as He thought and give as He gave. (This changes us from former values to the core values of Jesus.)

"Remember the Lord your God. He is the one who gives you power to be successful, in order to fulfill the covenant he confirmed to your ancestors with an oath." —

DEUTERONOMY 8:18 (NLT)

### 4 TREASURE

We should be generous with our resources. God has richly blessed us to generously bless others and to establish His kingdom on the earth. By paying our tithe and giving our offerings we set ourselves in covenant with God to receive His best, which helps us give our best.

*"If your gift is... giving, give generously." — ROMANS 12:8 (NLT)*

## CHURCH FINANCES

**We practice tithing for the support of Christ's body, the Church, as God commands.** We recognize that giving the rest 10 percent 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 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 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 worship, and must not be considered as a business transaction but as an expression of gratitude toward God.

*"A tithe of everything... belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord."* – LEVITICUS 27:30 (NIV)

# Seven **BENEFITS OF GIVING**

## **1 HELPS ME BUILD GODLY CHARACTER**

*"God so loved the world that He gave his only son..."* – JOHN 3:16 (NIV)

## **2 DRAWS ME CLOSER TO GOD**

*"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."* – MATTHEW 6:21 (NIV)

## **3 GIVING IS THE ENEMY OF POVERTY**

*"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to be generous and willing to share. In this way they may take hold of the life that is truly life."*  
– 1 TIMOTHY 6:17-19 (NIV)

## **4 STRENGTHENS MY FAITH**

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding... Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of your income, and he will fill your barns to overflowing."* – PROVERBS 3:5, 9-10 (NIV)

## **5 INVESTMENT IN ETERNITY**

*"Give happily to those in need, and always be ready to share whatever God has given you. By doing this, you will be storing up real treasure for yourselves in heaven - it is the only safe investment for eternity!"* – 1 TIMOTHY 6:18-19 (LB)

## **6 BLESSES ME IN RETURN**

*"A generous man himself will be blessed."*  
– PROVERBS 22:9 (NIV)

## **7 MAKES ME HAPPY**

*"There is more happiness in giving than receiving."* – ACTS 20:35 (NIV)

# LED BY THE *Holy Spirit*

*"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come."*

— JOHN 16:13 (NKJV)

## LIFE WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES

### 1 COMFORT

"And I will pray to the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever." — John 14:16 (NIV)

"So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase." — ACTS 9:31 (NAS)

### 2 CONVICTION

"But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment." — JOHN 16:5-8 (NAS)

### 3 GUIDANCE

"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come." — JOHN 16:13 (NAS)

### 4 POWER

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." — ACTS 1:8 (NIV)

### 5 CHARACTER

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." — GALATIANS 5:22-23 (NIV)

## 6 SPIRITUAL GIFTS

"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit... Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of

wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to

another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines." – 1

CORINTHIANS 12:4-11 (NIV)

# YOUR NEXT STEPS

**GIVE YOUR HEART TO JESUS AND BE SAVED.**

**DECLARE YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS PUBLICLY.**

**EXPERIENCE THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

**GET PLUGGED INTO A COMMUNITY GROUP.**

**COMPLETE ALL THREE WEEKS OF THE GROWTH TRACK.**

**GLORY BELL CHURCH IS ONE CHURCH IN MANY LOCATIONS UNTIL  
EVERYONE HEARS THE GOSPEL OF *Jesus Christ*.**