



DISCOVER NEW LIFE

FOLLOW CHRIST

CLASS ONE

**PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE**



**NEW LIFE**  
CHURCH

Follow Christ. Grow in Community. Love Others.





## WELCOME!

We are glad that you have taken the time to learn more about who we are at New Life Church and what our church can mean in your life. Through a series of three classes, we want to give you a sense of what we are all about! We will cover our mission, vision and core values, as well as, the fundamentals of the faith and the basic spiritual disciplines needed for walking with Christ. Our goal is to help you gain a deeper understanding of God's plan for your life and prayerfully consider membership here. Thank you for being here!

## SIGNS OF NEW LIFE:

In the New Life Church community, we express our values and live out our mission in three key areas that we refer to as the Signs of New Life:



FOLLOW CHRIST



GROW IN COMMUNITY



LOVE OTHERS

These series of classes are designed to share these Signs of New Life with you and discuss them to give you a better sense of who New Life Church is as a community of believers.

## INTRODUCTION OF CLASSES

The Discover New Life Classes are designed to help you become a fully-committed follower of Jesus Christ. These classes are made up of three components that equip new members to 1) connect with the mission and core values of New Life, 2) discover the spiritual impact growth communities can have on their spiritual development, and 3) learn how to use their God-given gifts to make a difference in the lives of others within and outside of the church family.

Each class helps you take a step closer to realizing God's plan for your life and ultimately, connecting with other people and communities within our church where you can grow in your walk with Christ together.

### **CLASS ONE: FOLLOW CHRIST** (First Sunday of every month)

#### **The Goal of this Class:**

To become better acquainted with our story, the mission, values and beliefs of New Life Church. To connect with others who are interested in plugging into New Life and have the opportunity to become a church member.

### **CLASS TWO: GROW IN COMMUNITY** (Second Sunday of every month)

#### **The Goal of this Class:**

To discover how much we value seeing the Church as a Community of believers growing together and serving together. We will learn what it means to grow spiritually and how that is done at New Life. This class will explore why relational growth communities are critical to our growth as a Christian.

### **CLASS THREE: LOVE OTHERS** (Third Sunday of every month)

#### **The Goal of this Class:**

To discover and understand how our personal and spiritual makeup reveals the path to our purpose. In this class, we will learn where we fit in service to others. We will also discover our Spiritual Gifts, and the serving and discipleship communities where we may utilize them.

# CLASS ONE: FOLLOW CHRIST

## PART ONE:

### OUR STORY & OUR MISSION

*“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

**Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)**



## CLASS ONE: FOLLOW CHRIST

### OUR STORY:

New Life's story begins in a parking lot worship service... and grows into a thriving body of believers who are passionate about being the hands and feet of Christ to our city and beyond...

New Life Church was started in 1995 by a young minister, who would become its founding Pastor, along with 5 charter families. God placed in Pastor Harris' heart a passion to lead a ministry that would radically love people who were hurting, be Biblical in its ministry activities and present the truths of Scripture in a practical and balanced way effecting change in the lives of those who would be touched by the ministry.

The first worship service was held in the parking lot of Oakhurst Elementary School, in Decatur, GA on Mother's Day in 1995. In December of that same year, New Life was blessed to secure the purchase of a new worship facility in Lithonia, GA., even though the ministry was only 6 months old with no credit history, and limited financial resources.

In 2001, a miraculous acquisition of a large, mid-century school facility in Decatur, GA was purchased. This facility was a former high school, with a great capacity for dedicated ministry and social services to the South Dekalb community and surrounding areas.

The following year, a critical portion of the church's vision was realized. "New Life Community Ministries, Inc.," a non-profit community development corporation, was started and later became one of the only full-service, faith-based community centers of its kind in the South Dekalb area. New Life Community Center ministers to at-risk youth, marginalized adults, seniors, the homeless, substance abusers, as well as at-risk teenagers.

In 2004, a community homeless outreach ministry called 'His Love Extended' was started and at that time, ministered to about 45 homeless men. In 2007, that Outreach was expanded to over 200 homeless and under-served individuals and families. Presently, "New Life Community Ministries" serves over 500 individuals in need each week through a variety of services such as hot meals, a clothing store, barber & grooming services, as well as providing GED training, employment readiness programs, substance abuse rehabilitation support, and a host of other daily life-enhancement programs. Many of those we help are impoverished, struggling with addictions, or simply seeking a more sustainable life.

In 2007, we sensed God tugging at our hearts to move our church's main location to our current campus. We felt called to devote ourselves to fulltime ministry in an urban context. We were already meeting the needs of so many under-served people; we decided to make that environment our primary location for ministry.

In 2010 a new Worship facility was erected on our current campus, completing a set of four Ministry buildings, including a 300-seat auditorium space and a full gymnasium, and a 2200-seat sanctuary.

Today, New Life's worship campus allows for our church to provide ministry through a full service barber and beauty salon, state-of-the-art children and teen environments, as well as expansion space for a complete Christian academy.

## OUR MISSION:

### I. WHY NEW LIFE CHURCH EXISTS?

1. At New Life Church, we see God's design for the church to be a Christ-led, biblically centered, loving community of believers who are passionate about God and people. We are called to Greater Atlanta to be this type of church by following Christ, growing spiritually and collectively, and loving people right where they are through ministry action that empowers them to fulfill God's purpose for their lives, and equips them to become fully committed followers of Jesus Christ.

### II. NEW LIFE MISSION STATEMENT:

**New Life exists to transform the world around us by following Christ, growing in community and loving others. In other words... to be the Church.**

At New Life, we believe that the purpose of the church is to serve as the earthly extension of the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ. In essence, we are to be the 'hands and feet' of Jesus to the world around us. The two great 'bookends' of Jesus' ministry are found at the beginning of His ministry and at the close of His ministry. One is in **Luke 4:18-19**, which is commonly understood as the '**Great Mission' of Jesus' Ministry**, and the other is in **Matthew 28:19**, which is commonly understood as the '**Great Commission' of the Church**.

#### 1. The Great Mission of Christ: – Luke 4:17-21 (NKJV)

<sup>16</sup> So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read.<sup>17</sup> And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:

<sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; <sup>19</sup> to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

<sup>20</sup> Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. <sup>21</sup> And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

#### 2. The Great Commission of Christ: – Matthew 28:19-20 (NKJV)

<sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

- A. We view the **Great \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ** as the command for the church to live out the **Great \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ**. It is in the Great Mission and Commission of Christ that New Life finds its ministry's mission as a church.

### III. THE FOUR MISSION FOCUSES OF OUR CHURCH

The above two scripture passages (*Matthew 28:19* and *Luke 4:18-19*) provide the framework for the four mission focuses of our church, which we believe are the Four Core Spiritual Development Areas of a follower of Christ.

1. **COMMUNITY**      "...He went into the synagogue..." – **Luke 4:16**
2. **WORSHIP**      "...on the Sabbath Day..." – **Luke 4:16**
3. **SERVICE**      "...He has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor, to heal the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, the recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed..." – **Luke 4:18**
4. **DISCIPLESHIP**      "...Go and make disciples... teaching them to observe all I have commanded..." – **Matthew 28:19, 20**

At New Life Church, we have structured our the entire church ministry around these four Mission Focuses of our church:

1. **COMMUNITY** “...He went into the synagogue...”

Throughout the New Testament we see the early church coming together for prayer, fellowship and teaching in growing and deeply ‘relational communities’ (Acts 2:42). We believe that these ‘relational communities’ are the primary way that discipleship was modeled for us in scripture. Over and over again in the Bible, we are called to ‘love one another’, ‘pray for one another’, ‘forgive one another’... Simply put, we can’t grow and thrive in Christ without ‘one another’.

New Life Church seeks to grow people by connecting them to each other, and to Christ.

A. At New Life Church there are two Primary Communities:

a. **Discipleship Communities**

b. **Serving Communities**

**NOTE:** More detailed information about “COMMUNITY” is covered in **CLASS #2: RELATIONAL DISCIPLESHIP**

2. **WORSHIP** “...on the Sabbath Day...”

We were created to Worship God and enjoy what it means to live in His presence. Without Worship, the Father cannot fully be known. One of our deepest beliefs is that nothing is more essential to the life of a believer than a full, vibrant, rich life of worship and adoration of God. New Life Church places great effort in helping each member and attender experience impactful public worship that will inspire deep and powerful private worship.

**WORSHIP** – Collective Gatherings for 1) Weekend Worship, 2) Midweek Worship and 3) Special Worship Experiences

**Hebrews 10:25** – “...not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

a. **Worship is a \_\_\_\_\_:** Our Worship Experiences are gatherings for Celebration.

Worship in the presence of our God is cause for celebration! We are worshipping the Almighty God who loves us, saved us and sustains our life. Every worship experience is a “celebration” of our great God.

**Psalm 100:1-2, 4** – “Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.”

**Psalm 122:1** – “So they came to Jerusalem, with stringed instruments and harps and trumpets, to the house of the Lord.”

**Psalm 94: 2** – “Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.”

b. **Worship is for \_\_\_\_\_:** Our Worship Experiences are gatherings for Edification.

The word ‘edify’ shares a root meaning with the word ‘edifice’, also known as a *building*. It simply means ‘the act of building or strengthening a person, to enlighten, instruct, or enrich’. Worship is intended to be an edifying experience. It should be designed to build and strengthen our faith through clear and practical teaching and preaching, inspirational and impactful music, as well as many other expressions of worship that help to develop our faith.



**Ephesians 4:11-13** – *“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”*

**1 Corinthians 14:26** – *“How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.”*

**1 Corinthians 14:2** – *“But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.”*

- c. **Worship brings \_\_\_\_\_:** Our Worship Experiences are gatherings for Salvation.

The primary and chief responsibility of the church is to reach people with the saving message of the cross of Jesus Christ. The Salvation of all men and women is the single redemptive purpose of the Gospel, and it is the highest expression of the Love of God towards mankind. There is no greater aim of the church than to preach the Gospel with a passion to save those who are not in the safety of the family of God.

Our efforts in spreading the gospel of Christ is not limited to our public or collective gatherings for worship, but are done at numerous times, and in numerous ways, throughout the life of our church. The command to spread the Gospel is at the heart of the Great Commission, and it is at the heart of the Mission of our Church.

- d. **Worship is for \_\_\_\_\_:** Our Worship Experiences are gatherings for Preparation.

Our weekend and public worship gatherings are designed to prepare each believer to do the work of ministry in our daily and practical lives. We come together to be empowered and inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that we may go out and be ‘salt’ and ‘light’ in the darkness and emptiness of the world around us.

**Acts 2:1-3** – *“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting... And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

**Ephesians 4:11-13** – *“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;*

**Acts 2:46-47** – *“So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”*

3. **SERVICE** “He has anointed me to:  
 ...preach the gospel to the **poor**  
 ...to heal the **broken hearted**  
 ...to proclaim liberty to the **captives**  
 ...the recovery of sight to the **blind**  
 ...to set at liberty those who are **oppressed...**”

The heart of Christ was consumed with serving others. Our Savior came to serve others, not to be served. This is also the heart of our church. We seek to engage every attendee and member, in meaningful and compassionate service to others. We believe we are called to be a ‘citadel of hope’ for hurting and the hopeless while affirming their value and worth as people loved by God.

**SERVICE – The One Single Passion of Jesus was People.** Serving people is the one single passion of New Life Church.

**AT NEW LIFE CHURCH...**

- a. Every member is a \_\_\_\_\_ .
- b. Every ministry is \_\_\_\_\_ .
- c. Every person is \_\_\_\_\_ to serve others.

**NOTE:** More detailed information about “**SERVICE**” is covered in **CLASS #3: LOVE OTHERS**

4. **DISCIPLESHIP** “Go and make disciples... teaching them to observe all I have commanded...”

We believe discipleship is best done in what we call Spiritual Growth Environments. These “environments” are intentionally designed, relational opportunities where discipleship can take place. Each environment is designed to grow the believer spiritually and provide healthy spaces where impactful relationships can develop and thrive, and spiritual growth can organically take place.

**New Life’s Spiritual Growth Environments are:**

- A. **Community Environments** (Small Groups)
- B. **Worship Environments** (Weekend and Public Worship)
- C. **Service Environments** (Ministry Service Opportunities)
- D. **Discipleship Environments** (Discipleship & Corporate Teaching Classes)

**NOTE:** More detailed information about “**DISCIPLESHIP**” is covered in **CLASS #2: RELATIONAL DISCIPLESHIP**

**IV. THE GREAT COMMISSION FOR EVERY CHRISTIAN**

1. Every Christian has been given the \_\_\_\_\_ to share our Faith.

**Matthew 28:18-20** – “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...”

**Mark 16:15-16** – “Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”

**Luke 24:46-49** – “that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations...”

**Acts 1:8** – “...and you shall be witnesses to Me... unto the end (uttermost part) of the earth.”

2. Every Christian should sense a \_\_\_\_\_ to share our Faith.

The Bible speaks of the practice of sharing our faith with those who are far from God as a “moral obligation”.

A. He who witnesses - Saves the soul of another person from \_\_\_\_\_.

**James 5:20** – “...let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.”

B. He Who Witnesses - Should be \_\_\_\_\_ to Witness to others, especially those closest to him.

**Romans 1:14-15** – “I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are at Rome.”

**Romans 11:14 (NCV)** - “I hope I can make my own people jealous and, in that way, help some of them to be saved.”

C. He Who Witnesses - Does so at all costs for the sake of the same Gospel which first saved \_\_\_\_\_.

**I Corinthians 9:19-23** - “I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel...”

D. He Who Witnesses - Is called “\_\_\_\_\_” in Scripture.

**Proverbs 11:30** - “He who wins souls is wise...”

3. Every Christian Should be actively engaged in the \_\_\_\_\_ to share our Faith.

A. WE ARE CALLED TO: GO

**Matthew 28:19** – “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,<sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

a. **Go:** Accept the personal \_\_\_\_\_. [Evangelism has to be intentional.]

b. **Go:** Build a personal \_\_\_\_\_. [Evangelism is most effective when it is relational.]

c. **Go:** Share your personal \_\_\_\_\_. [Evangelism is best when it is personal.]

B. WE ARE CALLED TO: TEACH

**Matthew 28:19, 20** – “...make disciples... teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...”

a. We are simply called to come alongside another person and share three things with them:

i. **What Jesus** \_\_\_\_\_.

“He suffered, died and rose again for our sins...” (I Peter 3:18; Luke 24:46; I Corinthians 15:3-4; Romans 5:6,10; etc.)

ii. **What Jesus** \_\_\_\_\_

**John 14:6** – “I am the way, the truth, and the life...”

**John 6:47** – “Truly, Truly I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.”

**Matthew 11:28** – “Come unto me ...and I will give you rest.”

iii. **What Jesus** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mark 16:16** – “He that believes [in me] shall be saved...he that believes not shall be damned...”

**Acts 2:38** – “Repent and be baptized every one of you...”



### C. WE ARE CALLED TO: BAPTIZE

Matthew 28:20 – “...baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost...”

- a. **Baptism** is an *outward public expression of an inward personal change*  
**Mark 16:15** – “...he that believes and is baptized shall be saved...”
- b. **Baptism** is a public celebration of a new believer’s \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ.
- c. **Baptism** identifies the "*new*" believer with his "*new*" Lord by:
  - i. Being *covered in water* to symbolize the washing away of Sin, which separated him from God. (see Acts 22:16)
  - ii. Being *buried in a "watery grave"* to symbolize the acceptance of Jesus' death and burial on his behalf and in his stead. '*...Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into his death.*' (Romans 6:4a)
  - iii. Being *raised from the "watery grave"* to symbolize the "*new*" life (or new birth) of the "*new*" believer in Christ. '*...like as Christ was raised up from the dead... even so we should walk in newness of life.*' (Romans 6:4b)
- d. **Baptism** is \_\_\_\_\_ by Christ to show the believer's conversion and identification with Him to all who witness it.
- e. **Baptism** is \_\_\_\_\_ a *prerequisite for salvation*, but rather *a testimony of salvation*.

## PART TWO:

### OUR VALUES

*“And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ.”*

Philippians 1:9-10 (NIV)

## OUR CORE VALUES:

The following Core Values are the driving principles that set the standard for everything we say and do. They guide us in what it means to be New Life Church. We endeavor to take the truth of God's Word and accurately apply it to the time we live, in an uncompromising fashion, without hesitation, yet with sensitivity and with practical application.

### 1. Grounded in God's Word

The Bible is our foundation and our guide for life. We believe the Bible has not lost its relevance or power to change lives. We value the scriptures as the very Words of God given to us for Godly, wise and fulfilled living.

- **2 Timothy 3:16** – “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.”
- **James 1:22-25** – “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.”
- **John 1:1, 14** – “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”... “And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us...”
- **2 Timothy 4:2-4** – “Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.
- **1 Peter 1:23-25** – “having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, because... the grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the Lord endures forever. Now this is the word, which by the gospel, was preached to you.”

### 2. Deliberate in Evangelism

As a church, we are called to reach people with the message of Christ in our community, in our nation, and throughout the world. We live eager to share it with all who are lost in both a personal and public manner.

- **Matthew 28:19-20** – “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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
- **John 12:32** – “And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”
- **Matthew 9:11-13** – “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.”
- **Mark 16:15-16** – “And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”
- **Luke 14:23** – “And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled...’”



### 3. Passionate in Worship

We are committed to having a corporate worship experience that invites His presence—one that is full, vibrant, and rich with the adoration of God. In our worship experiences as a church our passion is to honor Christ, and inspire every believer to live a lifestyle of private worship, where every day is filled with healthy and wholesome devotion to God.

- **Psalm 29:2** – “Give unto the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.”
- **Psalm 95:6-9** – “Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.”
- **Ephesians 5:19-20** – “Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ”
- **Hebrews 10:25** – “...not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

### 4. Reliant on Prayer

We can never accomplish what God calls us to do without time with Him. Prayer is the power that strengthens and builds up our church. Our desire is be a “house of prayer” which was the heart of Jesus, and became the bedrock of the early church. We believe that our relationship with Christ, and His impact in the world around us finds its source in prayer.

- **Matthew 21:13** – “He said to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you make it a den of robbers.”
- **Acts 6:4** – “But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”
- **James 5:16** – “Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”
- **Acts 1:14** – “All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.
- **Acts 4:24, 31** – “And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God” ... “And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.”

### 5. Growing Spiritually

We have not arrived—not as a church and not as individuals. We commit ourselves to continually being disciplined in authentic community environments — because we believe that believers grow and mature best when our lives intersect each other. Our preaching, teaching, small groups, outreach service, and personal devotion all find their foundation in God’s word. Every aspect of our church ministry is meant to grow us spiritually and continually shape us into people who please God in our everyday lives.

- **Colossians 1:28, 29** – “We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor...”
- **1 Peter 2:2** – “Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.”
- **1 Corinthians 14:12, 26** – “So it is with you. Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church.”... “When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening [building up] of the church.”
- **Ephesians 4:15-16** – “...speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ – from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

## 6. Building the Family

We desire to be a church that ministers to all ages, building healthy, spiritually grounded individuals, families, communities and ultimately, the family of God, by creating and fostering a multigenerational experience with opportunities for real connection and ministry that touches the “whole person”—spirit, soul, and body.

- **1 Thessalonians 5:23** – “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- **Genesis 12:3** – “I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”
- **Deuteronomy 6:6-7** – “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.”
- **Malachi 4:6** – “And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest He come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”
- **Ephesians 3:15** – “For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named.”

## 7. Practicing Generosity

God has given us so much, we count it our privilege to support His work and bless others. We live recognizing Christ as the source of every blessing and grace that we enjoy in our lives. We joyfully offer our tithe, as well as our time, talents, and financial offerings to support God’s work, as we seek to positively impact our community and change the world around us.

- **Malachi 3:8-12** – “Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. You say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In your tithes and contributions. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the Lord of hosts. Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the Lord of hosts.”
- **2 Corinthians 9:6-8** – “Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”
- **2 Corinthians 9:11-12** – “You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.”

## PART THREE:

### OUR BELIEFS

*“There is one body and one Spirit — just as you were called to one hope when you were called — one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”*

Ephesians 4:4-6 (NIV)

## OUR BELIEFS: An Affirmation of our Faith

At New Life there are specific Biblical Beliefs that are central to our faith, and they frame our understanding of God, and our relationship with Him. These beliefs are our Affirmations of Faith and they categorize the foundations of what we believe and teach as a church body.

1. **In essential beliefs, and clear Biblical instruction, we have \_\_\_\_\_.**  
**Ephesians 4:4-6** – “...There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of us all...”
2. **In non-essential beliefs, we have \_\_\_\_\_.**  
**Romans 14:1, 4, 12, 22** – “Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters...Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls...So then each of us will give an account of himself to God...So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God.”
3. **In all our beliefs, we show \_\_\_\_\_.**  
**1 Corinthians 13:2** – “...And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.”

### BELOW IS AN ABBREVIATED LIST OF WHAT WE BELIEVE:

(For an expanded list of our core beliefs, please see Appendix 1 at the end of this section.)

#### 1. What We Believe About God

We believe there is only one true God and He is absolutely holy and perfect in every aspect of His Person. He is the creator of all that exist and is almighty in power, wisdom, strength and glory. He has all power (Omnipotent), all knowledge (Omniscient), and He is ever-present in every place and in all things at once (Omnipresent).

We believe God is absolutely holy and perfect in every aspect of His being. He is perfectly wise, perfectly loving, perfectly just, perfectly righteous, perfectly self-existence, perfectly merciful, etc., and that the holiness and perfections of God set Him apart from any other being within His creation.

- **Isaiah 45:5-6** – “I am the Lord, and there is no other; there is no God besides Me. I will gird you, though you have not known Me, That they may know from the rising of the sun to its setting that there is none besides Me. I am the Lord, and there is no other”
- **Exodus 20:2-3** – “I am the Lord your God; You shall have no other gods before me.”
- **Isaiah 6:3** – “And one called out to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”
- **Jeremiah 32:27** – “Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?”
- **Deuteronomy 32:4** – “He is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice. Righteous and upright is He.”
- **Jeremiah 10:6** – “Inasmuch as there is none like You, O Lord (You are great, and Your name is great in might)”

#### 2. What We Believe About The Trinity

We believe that the One God is a Triune God, eternally existing in three distinct Persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. We believe that the fullness of the Godhead is expressed in three indivisible Persons, who are co-equal in their essential nature and completely identical in their essence; the three equate to one God.

- **John 1:1-2** – “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.”
- **Hebrews 1:3** – “But in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.”

- **Colossians 1:15-17** – “He (Christ) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.”
- **Deuteronomy 6:4** – “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.”
- **1 John 5:7** – “For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.”
- **John 15:26** – “But when the Helper [the Holy Spirit] comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.”

### 3. What We Believe About Jesus Christ

We believe Jesus Christ is Lord, Savior and the Redeemer of mankind. He is Incarnate, fully God and fully Man, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin. He came to earth for the purpose of providing salvation to all who are lost by dying on the cross for man’s sin, raising from the dead and ascending to heaven. He is now the only Mediator between God and mankind.

- **Philippians 2:6-8** – “...who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”
- **Romans 8:3** – “For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh.”
- **Luke 19:10** – “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost...”
- **1 Peter 3:18** – “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.”
- **1 Timothy 1:15** – “This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.”
- **Hebrews 7:25** – “Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them...”

### 4. What We Believe About The Holy Spirit

We believe the Holy Spirit is as much God as the Father and the Son. He is the third person of the Godhead, and has a specific ministry to mankind in convicting them of sin, producing within them spiritual birth and indwelling those who are the recipients of Salvation, bringing the very life of Christ into the life of the believer. The Holy Spirit leads, directs, guides, and imparts gifts to believers according to His will. All believers are instructed to be filled with the Holy Spirit and guided by Him in all actions and involvements of their lives.

- **John 16:12-13** – “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.”
- **1 Corinthians 2:12-14** – “Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.”
- **Ephesians 5:18** – “And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit.”

## 5. What We Believe About God's Word – The Scriptures

We believe the Scriptures have one Divine Author (God) and specific human writers. Holy men of God wrote the Scriptures as the Holy Spirit guided them. The Bible is a perfect record of God's revelation to man and should serve as the standard by which Christians should live.

- **2 Peter 1:20-21** – “Knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”
- **Psalms 119:128** – “Therefore I consider all your precepts to be right; I hate every false way.”
- **Romans 15:4** – “For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”
- **2 Timothy 3:16-17** – “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

## 6. What We Believe About Jesus Christ's Return

We believe that our Lord will return for the purpose of gathering His Church and taking them out of the earth to live eternally with Him in the Kingdom of God (Heaven). We also believe that Christ shall return to completely perfect His saints, and believers in Christ shall be changed in body, character, and morality at his Second Coming. We also believe that we will be transformed in an instant from mortal life to immortal life, free of sickness and disease, pain, trials, or death and shall enter into the joys of heaven to live forever with the Lord.

- **John 14:2-3** – “In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”
- **1 Thessalonians 4:16-18** – “For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command with the voice of the Archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. “
- **1 Corinthians 15:51-53** – “Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.”
- **Revelation 22:14** – “Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.”
- **Revelation 21:3-4** – “And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.’”



## PART FOUR:

### A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST

*“Brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.”*  
Romans 10:1 (NIV)

## I. A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST:

### 1. It All Starts Here! (A Relationship with Jesus)

A \_\_\_\_\_ with God is only possible through a personal \_\_\_\_\_ with Jesus Christ. This personal relationship with Jesus Christ is a gift of grace, freely given to anyone who will simply believe in Him and trust Him for their salvation.

- **John 14:6** – “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”
- **Ephesians 2:8-9** – “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”
- **John 3:16-17** – “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

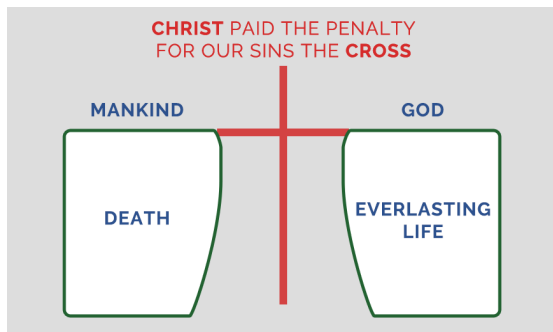
### 2. Sin Separates Us From God.

Every person is born into sin as a result of the fallen condition of all mankind (known as Original Sin), and is in need of a Savior to reconcile him/her back to the God who deeply and unconditionally loves them.

- **Romans 5:12; 15** – “Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.” ... “But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man’s offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.”
- **Isaiah 59:1-2** – “Indeed, the LORD’s hand is not too short to save, and His ear is not too deaf to hear. But your iniquities have built barriers between you and your God, and your sins have made Him hide His face from you so that He does not listen.”

### 3. Jesus Christ Provides the Only Solution For Our Sin.

Salvation, or the “New Birth” experience is a work of God’s grace, and can be received through faith in Jesus Christ and acceptance of His death on the cross as full and just payment for our sins. Salvation and reconciliation with God cannot be earned, bought or received as a reward for our moral service or good deeds. It is purely because of the love that God has for us that He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to die for our sins, and be raised from the dead. The Bible teaches that any person who will trust this in their heart, and confess Jesus Christ as his Savior and Lord will be saved.



the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”

- **1 Corinthians 15:3-4** – “For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”

- **Romans 5:1-2** – “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

#### 4. In Christ We Are Made New And Are In God’s Family Forever.

There is an inner change that is brought about in a person’s heart when one is “saved” or “born again.” Once one’s heart has been changed by faith, they are no longer the same. Christ makes them new and places them into the eternal family of God.

- **2 Corinthians 5:17** – “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”
- **Galatians 3:26-28** – “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

## II. THE NEXT STEP IN STARTING A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST:

### Start A Relationship With Christ – It’s as simple as A-B-C...

1. **A** \_\_\_\_\_ - We must first **admit** that we are a sinner, and then repent from our sins. We acknowledge that the penalty for our sin is death and confess Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord who paid full penalty on His cross.
  - **Romans 6:23** – “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
  - **Acts 2:38** – “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.”
  - **Psalms 51:3-4** – “For I know my transgressions and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.”
2. **B** \_\_\_\_\_ - We **believe** Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins, and God raised Him from the dead. The scriptures declare any one who believes in his heart and openly confesses Jesus Christ will be saved.
  - **Romans 10:9-10** – “Because, 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 unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”
  - **Acts 8:37** – “Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may”. And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”
3. **C** \_\_\_\_\_ - Finally, there is an ongoing process in which we daily **commit** our life to Christ. All who have begun a relationship with Christ are sealed and secure in their salvation forever.
  - **Galatians 2:19-20** – “For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”
  - **Ephesians 1:12-14** – “...so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.”

### III. MODEL PRAYER FOR SALVATION

*Lord Jesus, I am coming to You, admitting that I am a sinner and asking You to come into my life, forgive me of my sins, and save me from the penalty that my sins have deserved. I believe that You love me, and died on the cross for me and that You have risen from the dead, and desire to live in me. I confess You, Lord Jesus, as my personal Lord and Savior, and I commit my life to You for the rest of my life. Come into my heart, and change me into the person that You desire me to be. Thank You Lord for Your love and the grace of saving me. In Your Name I pray, AMEN.*

### IV. NOW, LET'S MAKE IT PUBLIC! (BAPTISM)

Declare what God has done in your heart by getting baptized and going public with your faith!

#### **BAPTISM:**

1. Baptism is an outward physical expression/sign that points to an inward spiritual transformation that has taken place in the believer's heart. Baptism symbolizes the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ and our new birth experience. Through water baptism we are 'identified' with Christ.
2. Our salvation is in no way dependent upon our baptism. However, getting baptized is our public declaration that we have truly received salvation. The clearest public expression of a new life in Christ is to publicly proclaim our faith in water Baptism. Baptism is more than just a celebration of life; it is a celebration of a 'new life'!
3. At New Life, we are committed to honoring this celebration by making it as special and as memorable as possible.
  - **Matthew 28:19** – "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."
  - **Romans 6:3-4** – "...Do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? <sup>4</sup>Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."
  - **Colossians 2:12** – "...Having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead."

## PART FIVE:

### OUR HOPE FOR YOU

*So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*

Acts 2:46-47 (NIV)

## OUR HOPE FOR YOU

### I. THE NEXT STEPS

1. Become a member of New Life Church by completing each of the **3 Discover New Life Classes**.
2. Join a **Discipleship Community** (Small Group and/or Discipleship Class)
3. Join a **Serving Community** (Ministry Service Environment or Ministry Volunteer).

### II. WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MEMBER

1. The difference between “attenders” and “members” can be summed up in one word: \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - A. An Attender is a \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - B. A Member is a \_\_\_\_\_ .

### III. FOUR REASONS TO COMMIT TO FORMAL MEMBERSHIP

1. **A \_\_\_\_\_ Reason:** Jesus is committed to the collective church and calls it His Bride.

**Ephesians 5:25** – “...Christ loved the church, and he gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.”
2. **A \_\_\_\_\_ Reason:** The collective gifts and accountability of the church is a primary vehicle for producing spiritual growth.

The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Christians to be accountable to each other, and leverage each person’s spiritual gifts for the spiritual growth of the whole.

**1 Corinthians 12:7** – “Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”
3. **A \_\_\_\_\_ Reason:** The believer is called to deeper levels of spiritual commitment in service to others.

It is an unselfish decision to invest in service to others. The church gives the believer an avenue to practice the “one another” commands of the New Testament (Love one another, pray for another, edify one another, etc.). Commitment always builds character.

**Romans 12:4-6** – “Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.”

See **Appendix 2** for a longer list of the “One Another” commands of the New Testament.
4. **A \_\_\_\_\_ Reason:** It identifies who can be depended upon to do the work of the Church’s ministry.

Every team must have a roster. Every school must have students. Every business has employees. Every army has an enlistment. Every family has family members. Membership allows New Life to identify our family.



## THE OTHER DISCOVER NEW LIFE CLASSES:

### **Discover New Life Class Two:**

#### **Grow in Community**

This class covers the foundations for discipleship. It covers the biblical call to include others believers in our walk with God. This class will explore why relational growth communities are critical to our growth as a Christian. It also provides opportunities to get plugged in to a Life Group at New Life where people experience growth through authentic, godly relationships.

### **Discover New Life Class Three:**

#### **Love Others**

This class teaches how you can serve and share with impact. It includes biblical principles of using your time, talent and treasures to intentionally serve the church and those around you, and provides opportunities to begin engaging in service. It also goes farther, discussing how to use your unique abilities to influence the Kingdom and lead others on a journey with Christ.




# NEW LIFE CHURCH


Follow Christ | Grow in Community | Love Others.  
Be the Church


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