



Lifestreams
Christian Church
SOUTH PERTH
A Christ Centred Community

Our Kingdom Life Discipleship



FINDING AND FOLLOWING JESUS

www.lifestreamscc.com

Acceptance before performance but not without performance. - P. McHugh

WELCOME TO 'OUR KINGDOM LIFE'!

At Lifestreams Christian Church our mission is "helping people find and follow Jesus." We've prepared this booklet to help you find and follow Jesus and to help others do the same. It's our hope that you grow closer to Jesus as you apply what you read in this booklet and pray about areas in your life to work out where you need to grow. Even more we pray that you see Jesus do great things in your life and through you in other people's lives as we all grow as disciples of Jesus.

We've titled this booklet 'Our Kingdom Life' because it's a journey we're all on together. Our heart in this is to grow closer to Jesus as a community, discipling each other and reaching out to the community around us to make new disciples. Relationship with Jesus and relationships with other people are so important to our growth, so don't go it alone.

We look forward to growing with you as disciples of Jesus, growing in Our Kingdom Life and seeing Jesus do more than we can imagine in our community. That will be awesome!



Rod Thom
Senior Minister
Lifestreams Christian Church
South Perth



Matt Sonsee
Worship and Discipleship Minister
Lifestreams Christian Church
South Perth

BE PREPARED FOR GOD TO CHALLENGE YOU

To grow spiritually we need to be prepared to be responsible and to strive. In **Philippians 3:12-14** Paul compares Kingdom life with running a race, which we know requires preparation, training and effort. Grace and salvation are free, but we must still put in effort to grow. Some of us over plan, others under plan. In applying effort to spiritual growth and discipleship we need to have balance:

- It is important to be realistic - consider what you can really do,
- It is also important to leave room for God to do more in you than you can imagine. **Ephesians 3:14-21** reminds us that God can accomplish infinitely more than we can ask.

Remember that spiritual growth requires us to be transformed, not just achieve a goal or tick a box, so be prepared for God to challenge you.

Below the Surface: Deeper Spiritual Responsibility

KINGDOM LIFE TREE

The tree represents our spiritual life, it's our discipleship ecosystem.

Each part of the tree represents a different element in our personal and spiritual life:

Below the Surface - the source of strength. These roots draw on the Living Water representing Jesus, the Word and the Spirit - from which we gain our strength:

- Spiritual Responsibility, (pg. 3)
- Spiritual Life, (pg. 6)
- Spiritual Relationships, (pg. 8)

Above the Surface - The trunk, branches, leaves and fruit.:

- The Body of Christ, the Church, (pg. 10)
- Stewardship - taking care of our resources, (pg. 11)
- Service - serving Jesus by serving others, (pg. 11)
- Sowing - sharing the Word with others, (pg. 12)

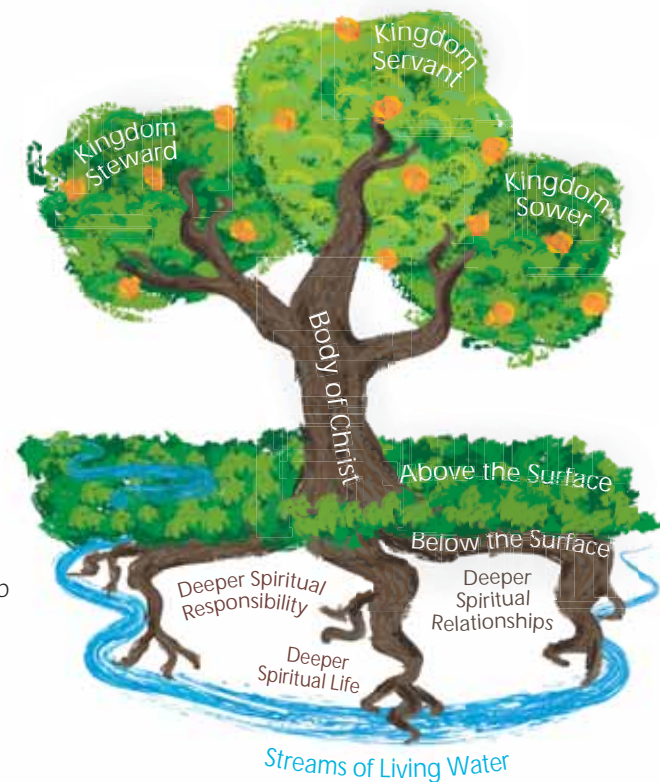
We use the tree to help us identify areas that we need to grow in, help us take responsibility and commit to growth.

MY KINGDOM LIFE

The diagram on page 13 is a tool which will help you identify areas of your Kingdom Life in which you need to grow as a disciple of Jesus.

Use this page to highlight your challenges and hopes for growth this year. Use it to note what you will do and what you hope God will do in your life.

Throughout this booklet you will be encouraged to speak with our Discipleship Minister about next steps, however feel free to speak with any of our church leaders.



Grace is not opposed to effort, it is opposed to earning. - D. Willard

Below the Surface: Deeper Spiritual Responsibility

HOW DO YOU TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR LETTING GOD WORK IN YOU?

Surrender: Surrender in prayer, in time and in control. Be responsible for praying into your own growth. Be responsible for working at the areas you identify. Set good short term goals. Share the journey with people you are close to and be real about where you are. You are responsible for your own spiritual development.

Philippians 1:6 - "he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

PRAYER - YOU NEED IT

Who's praying for you in your discipleship journey?

It is crucial to recognise the importance of prayer.

As a disciple you need others to pray for you in your growth and you can serve others by praying for them. **James 5:16** teaches us that prayer is powerful. "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." (NIV)

Ephesians 6:18-20 teaches us that prayer is vital in spiritual growth and support as we share Jesus.

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. 19 Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should." (NIV)

Follow Paul's example: Ensure that people are praying for you and that you pray for others.

Deeper Spiritual Responsibility

WHY DISCIPLESHIP?

IT'S JESUS' MODEL FOR GROWTH

Discipleship is Jesus' model for us to grow closer to Him: to grow in our faith, our spiritual health and to build God's Kingdom. In **Mark 3:13-15** we see Jesus choose twelve people to be closest to Him, to learn about his Kingdom and how to be more like Him. The purpose of Christian discipleship is to follow Jesus, grow to know Him and reflect Him more in our lives.

Following his sacrifice on the cross and his resurrection Jesus instructed his disciples to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (**Matthew 28:19**).

For us discipleship is about our own growth towards Christ and our efforts to support others in their growth. In **1 Corinthians 11:1** Paul encourages the believers to "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ." Discipleship is a model of relationship with Jesus at the centre, a relationship where we can respond to Jesus' call on our lives and take responsibility for our growth.

WHAT DOES DISCIPLESHIP LOOK LIKE IN OUR LIVES?

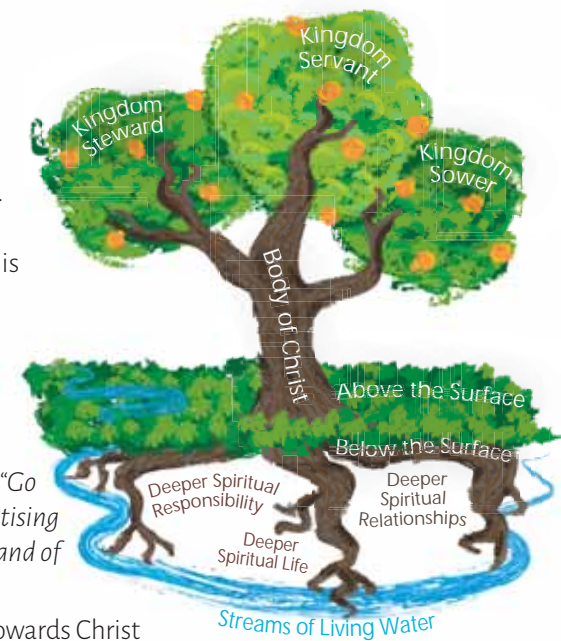
At Lifestreams Christian Church our vision of discipleship is a practical application of our mission:

HELPING PEOPLE FIND AND FOLLOW JESUS

Active discipleship is transformational as Christ changes our hearts and lives (**Romans 12:2**). We strive to grow:

- Deeper in our spiritual life, towards Jesus as the Living Water (**John 4:10-14**),
- Deeper spiritual life by planting ourselves in God's Word (**Psalms 1:1-3**),
- Deeper spiritual responsibility by striving to apply our faith in Jesus (**Philippians 2:12**),
- Deeper spiritual relationships as we support each other in our growth,
- Healthy Kingdom stewardship as we recognise our resources are not our own,
- Kingdom service in finding ways to serve others,
- Kingdom sowing through genuine relationships with those who have not yet found Jesus.

The result of discipleship is the fruit of the Spirit and a stronger Body of Christ focussed on Jesus and supporting each other as we grow.



Below the Surface: Deeper Spiritual Life Tapping in to the Source

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

If there is only one area to focus on at any time, then it should be growing a deeper spiritual life. This means seeking Him through prayer, the Word and spiritual disciplines.

Spiritual disciplines are the tap root of our relationship with Jesus, helping us draw on Him as the Living Water (**John 4:10-14**).

Striving to grow in spiritual disciplines is applying **Philippians 2:12-13** in our lives: working at our faith. While we are saved by grace and we cannot earn salvation, grace is not opposed to effort.

To mature as believers we need to be prepared to commit, to put in effort and to grow more like Jesus (**Philippians 3:12-14**). So what is the next step?

PRAYER

Conversation is essential to relationship. Prayer is conversation, submission and worship of God. Without prayer we cannot grow in spiritual understanding and strength (**Ephesians 6:18**).

Prayer is taking before the Lord all that we have on our hearts, but it is also spending time quietly before Him to listen.

We can grow in prayer alone or in a group. In the middle of busyness Jesus still dedicated time to be alone in prayer (**Luke 5:15-16**). It is important that we do the same to grow our spiritual life.

Lifestreams Christian Church has several prayer initiatives and groups to help you apply prayer to your life. We can support or resource you if you are unsure of how to pray.

Prayer opportunities include:

- 🍊 Pre-Service Prayer
- 🍊 Life Groups
- 🍊 Sunday Night Prayer
- 🍊 Email Prayer Team
- 🍊 Prayer 365

To take the next step see page 16 or speak with our Discipleship Minister.

Deeper Spiritual Life

THE WORD

There is no other resource so precious to us as God's Word. (**Matthew 4:4**). Time spent in the Word is time spent getting to know God and we can draw on that for strength. (**Psalms 1:1-3**) (**Hebrews 4:12**). We are called to study God's Word (**1 Timothy 4:13**).

How you read depends on your nature, gifts and time. To encourage you Lifestreams Christian Church has several tools to help you:

- 🍊 Memory verses, to help us meditate on the Word (**Psalms 1:2**)
- 🍊 Mobile Apps and online resources for study
- 🍊 Life Journals: a means to read and record your understanding
Access e-journal online: www.lifestreamscc.com/ejournal.html
- 🍊 Online message series. If you struggle to read the Word alone try listening to our series of audio messages, available online at www.lifestreamscc.com/mo.html

You can search and sort by message title or series. A good place to start is our series on John's Gospel, available online at www.lifestreamscc.com/mo.html?series=1
Pray that God will speak to you as you go deeper into his Word.

SPIRITUAL RETREATS

Spiritual retreats are an opportunity for us to set aside dedicated time to reflect on God's Word in community and in creation. We will focus on Him, pray, listen and grow our spiritual disciplines. We know Jesus spent time in solitude and in prayer (**Luke 6:12-13**).

Each retreat will focus on one or two spiritual disciplines that we can apply to our everyday lives to help us seek God and listen to him. We need to set aside time for the Lord, to be in His presence and to seek Him, distancing ourselves from the distractions and busyness of life. **Matthew 7:7** encourages us that if we seek, we will find.

Lifestreams Christian Church will facilitate spiritual retreats each year. The first retreat will explore silence, solitude and study. Further retreats will focus on other disciplines like simplicity, fasting and sabbath.

The purpose of these retreats is to learn how to apply the disciplines to our daily lives, not just while on retreat. Spiritual disciplines help us to keep our lives open to God.

To take the next step or register for a spiritual retreat see page 16 or speak with our Discipleship Minister.

Discipleship is about transforming - not about performing

Our real task on retreat is to create a space in our lives where God can reach us.

R. Foster

Below the Surface: Deeper Spiritual Relationships

WHY DO SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIPS MATTER?

As human beings we tend to find deeper relationships work better in smaller groups rather than large gatherings. We find it easier to be honest, caring and personal with a smaller number. We only need to look at Jesus to see He chose to share closely with only twelve. (Mark 3).

WHAT'S THE BENEFIT?

Through spiritual relationships we support each other in our growth and champion each other in our discipleship journey. We are encouraged in **Hebrews 10:23-25** to meet and build our faith together.

Spiritual relationships provide support and give us growth opportunities. They can challenge us, give us a context to share and develop our faith.

By sharing life and the study of scripture in this context, new believers are able to learn from those with more mature faith. Those with mature faith are reinvigorated by those with new belief. Everyone benefits from these spiritual relationships. As **Proverbs 27:17** states, "as iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another".

WHAT DO SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIPS LOOK LIKE AT LIFESTREAMS CHRISTIAN CHURCH?

Here are a few examples:

- 🍊 Home Groups
- 🍊 The Shed
- 🍊 MOPS
- 🍊 Life Groups
- 🍊 Open House
- 🍊 Discipleship
- 🍊 Craft
- 🍊 Small Groups
- 🍊 Prayer Groups
- 🍊 Coffee Groups
- 🍊 Friendship
- 🍊 Mentoring

STARTING OR LEADING A GROUP

Groups need leaders with a willingness to serve Jesus and an openness to share their lives with others. If you have a heart for others to grow and 2 hours in your week or fortnight then please consider starting a group.

RESOURCES FOR GROUPS

To assist and support your group we can provide the following:

- 🍊 Leadership training, support and encouragement
- 🍊 Selected study material linked to each message
- 🍊 Connection with potential new group members
- 🍊 Prayer support for you and your group
- 🍊 Other study material

ARE YOU BEING DISCIPLED? WHO IS AHEAD OF YOU?

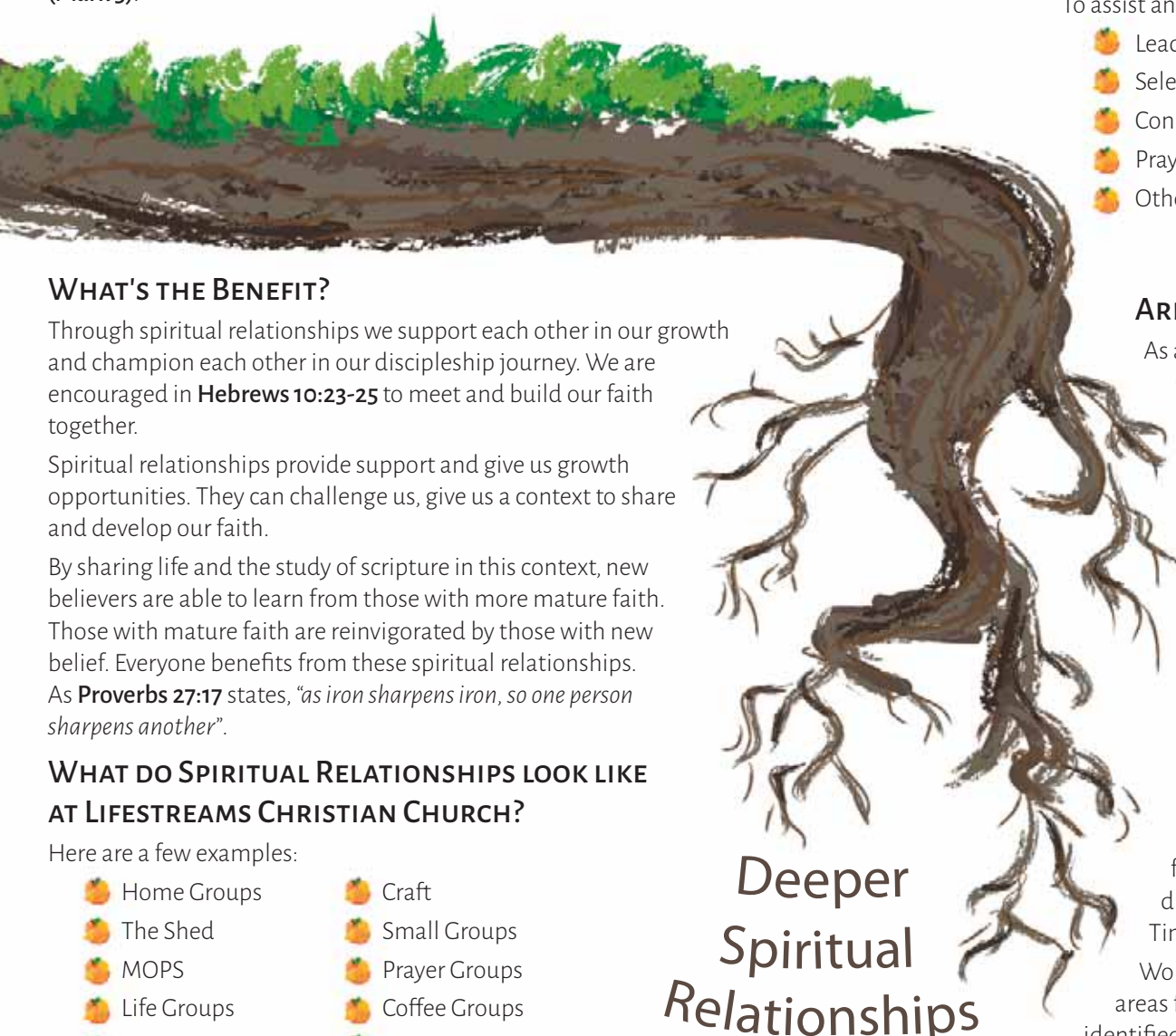
As a disciple you don't walk alone, you are part of the community of the Body of Christ. Identify the people who are leading the way in your spiritual walk, people whose faith is an example to you and who challenge you. In **1 Corinthians 11:1** Paul encourages other believers to follow his example: This is not to follow him ahead of Jesus, but to see how living under Jesus works practically. We all benefit from seeing real examples of discipleship in life, so connect with people who can help you.

If you don't have people whose example you can follow then you may need a Kingdom Life Discipeler. A Kingdom Life Discipeler is a person who can help you with the practical examples of faith and how to follow Jesus.

WHO ARE YOU DISCIPLING? WHO IS FOLLOWING YOU?

Being a follower and disciple is not the only call on our lives. We are called to make disciples of others as well. As an example Timothy followed Paul, both followed Jesus and Timothy went on to lead others. Like sharing your faith, discipling is a natural part of growing as a believer and disciple. Our series on 1 Timothy is available online at www.lifestreamscc.com/mo.html?series=22

Working through this booklet together is a great start, it will help you identify areas for growth and challenge. Resources, courses or group connections can all be identified together to help you lead and to help them grow.



Deeper
Spiritual
Relationships

Above the Surface: Body of Christ

WORSHIP

We are called to worship and **Romans 12:1** makes it clear that this is much more than singing, it is offering our whole being and life. Gathering together as the Body of Christ gives us a chance to express this worship by singing praise, sharing in communion, offering prayer and drawing together in celebration of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus.

Meeting as the Body of Christ helps us and refreshes us as we support each other living our lives in worship.

BAPTISM

Jesus' commission in **Matthew 28:19** is: "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit," (NIV).

Baptism is an act of obedience and acceptance of Jesus as Saviour and Lord. It's an important expression of faith that symbolises new birth in Him.

To find out more about baptism and how you can respond, listen to our Baptism series online at:

www.lifestreamscc.com/mo.html?series=20

To take the next step see page 16 or speak to your Kingdom Life Disciplex if you have one.

LIFESTREAMS CHRISTIAN CHURCH CORE VALUES

Our Core Values are the way that we operate as a Christian community - how we live as the Body of Christ. It's in our DNA.

You can hear what Lifestreams Christian Church is all about in our Core Values series online at:

www.lifestreamscc.com/mo.html?series=4

MEMBERSHIP

Belonging matters - we encourage you to become a member of Lifestreams Christian Church. **Hebrews 11:23-25** encourages us to motivate and support each other as we meet together. Becoming a member is important as it helps you to connect with others, to be supported and to support them.

Membership brochures are available at the Information Desk, or ask our Discipleship Minister.



OUR CORE VALUES

WE VALUE
AUTHENTICITY
LOVE
RELATIONSHIPS
GENEROSITY
ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT
SERVANT LEADERSHIP
UNITY
WORSHIP
KINGDOM INFLUENCE
PRAYER
DISCIPLESHIP
HELPING PEOPLE FIND AND FOLLOW
JESUS

Above the Surface: Maturing and Bearing Fruit

KINGDOM STEWARD

Stewardship is using our resources for the glory of God. We each have different resources: our time, our relationships, our bodies, our income, our possessions, our minds, talents and abilities. It's caring for 'everything' in our lives and using it for God. In our Core Values we address stewardship as living simply and generously.

2 Corinthians 9:6-9 reminds us that God provides for us and out of this provision we are to be generous to others.

Lifestreams Christian Church offers courses to help you develop your stewardship.

If you want advice on financial giving ask your Kingdom Life Disciplex or our Discipleship Minister about our Giving Streams booklet. These booklets are also available at the Information Desk.







KINGDOM SERVICE

In **Matthew 25:13-16** Jesus encourages us to be salt and light in the world, to let our deeds shine for all to see. What we do, how we live, is a real example and witness. We are called to serve like Jesus.

Romans 12:3-8 encourages us to use our gifts, whatever they are, to serve Jesus.

Service can be many things, but it is Jesus centred.

-  At home,
-  At your work place,
-  Your sport or social interest,
-  Within the Body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 10:31 "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God," (NIV).

In our church and our local community there are many opportunities to serve that suit all abilities. To find out more about serving go to page 16 to take the next step or speak with our Discipleship Minister.



Above the Surface: Maturing and Bearing Fruit



KINGDOM SOWER

Who are you praying for?

Who would you like to see come to Jesus?

Jesus words in **Matthew 28:16-20** apply to all of us: As a disciple of Jesus you are called to share the good news of Jesus and to make disciples! **2 Timothy 2:2** reinforces this. So what does that mean?

Our Core Value of Relational Jesus Centred Evangelism answers this:

- We share with people in their lives - wherever they are, in a manner relevant and sensitive to their situation (**Luke 7:34**),
- We are prepared to give account for our beliefs and actions (**1 Peter 3:15**),
- We seek opportunities to share our faith wherever we are (**Acts 8:4**),
- Jesus is shared through our lives in how we live (**Galatians 2:20**),
- When prompted by the Spirit we share our hope and joy in Jesus (**Acts 8:26-29**)

To take the next step go to page 16 or speak with our Discipleship Minister.

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

These are the things you should expect to see as you grow in your discipleship journey. They are the result of transformation in Jesus and will be evident in our lives. People will see the fruit of the Spirit in us as we live our Kingdom Lives.



Galatians 5:16-26 *16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*

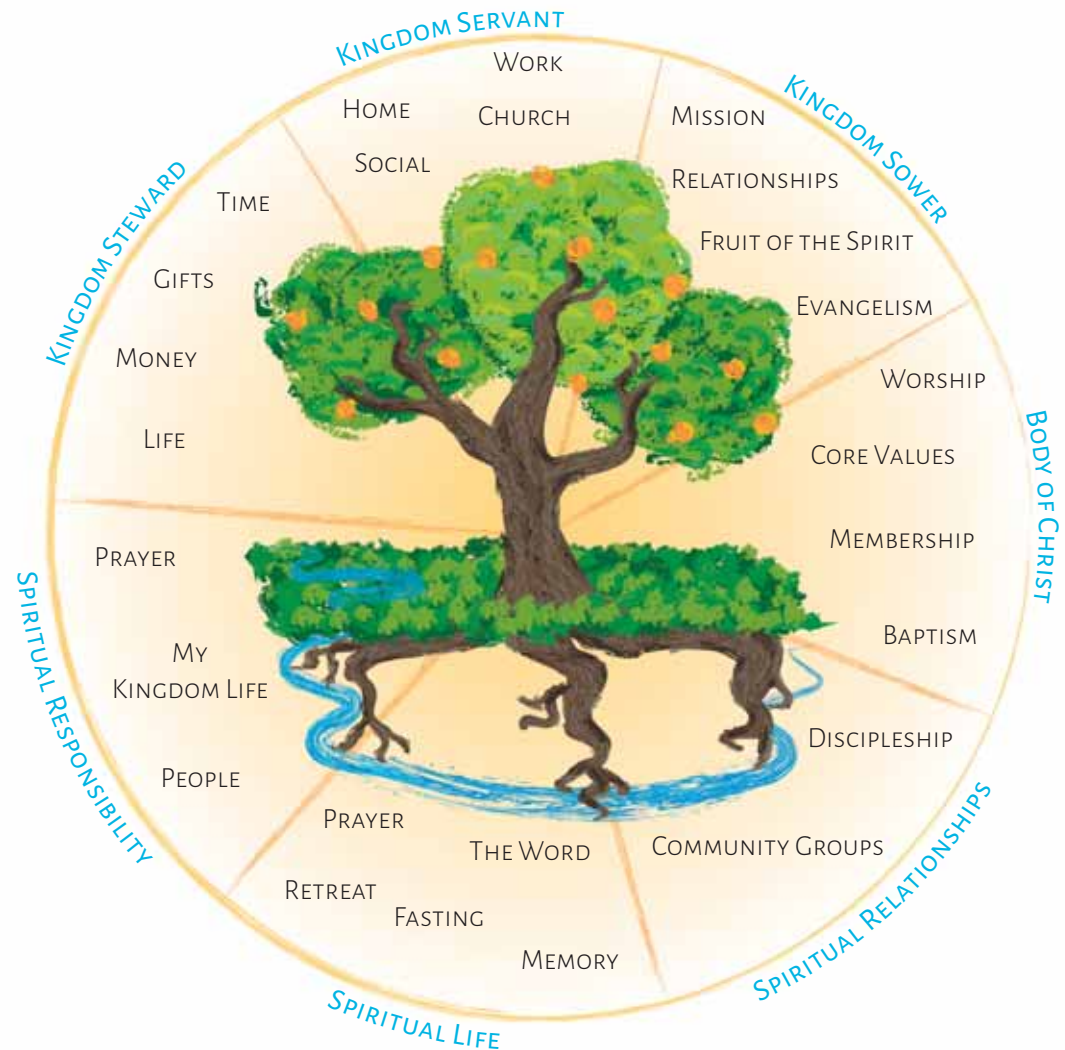
19 The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passion and desires. 25 Since we live by the spirit, let us keep in step with the spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. (NIV)

Discipleship includes surrendering, seeking and cooperating with the Holy Spirit to shine as a light for Jesus in the world (**Matthew 25:13-16**).

My Kingdom Life: How I Will Seek Growth this Season

Use the spaces provided to note the areas God is challenging you to focus on. Keep this as a record of the actions, courses or groups that will help you grow.



MY COMMITMENT TO A DEEPER KINGDOM LIFE



Heart change, healing and transformation

THE RIGHT COURSE FOR ME

Reviewing your “Kingdom Life”, considering “Below the Surface” and “Above the Surface” will help you identify areas in your life that need attention. Select courses that address these areas. Be realistic in your choices, trust God to challenge you and grow you more than you expect.

(Ephesians 3:14-21).

WHY SHOULD I DO A COURSE?

To grow.

Courses offered at Lifestreams Christian Church are focussed on growing areas of your Kingdom Life. Our courses, and others, help you grow by providing biblical teaching, personal challenge and practical application. A wide range of courses are available to help you grow.

HOW MUCH TIME DO I NEED?

Courses can be as short as a few hours, several nights or weekly for up to 12 weeks.

As Lifestreams Christian Church schedules courses they will be advertised in our Community Life and on our website.

SIGN ME UP!

To take the next step go to page 16 or speak with our Discipleship Minister.

BEARING FRUIT FROM COURSES

Discipleship is about transforming - not performing. Courses will have practical life application, to get the most out of them be prepared to be challenged and changed.

DEEPER COURSES

Some of the courses available at Lifestreams Christian Church:

Deeper Spiritual Responsibility

- Valiant Man
- Discipleship
- ALPHA

Deeper Spiritual Life

- Prayer
- Bible Courses
- Spiritual Retreats

Deeper Spiritual Relationship

- ENRICH
- ALPHA Marriage
- Orange Family

Body of Christ

- Church Safe

Kingdom Steward

- CAP Money Management

Kingdom Servant

- SHAPE
- Bible College (ACOM)
- Leadership Development

Kingdom Sower

- Relational Evangelism
- Mission Preparation
- Discipleship Training

EPHESIANS 3:14-21 (NIV)

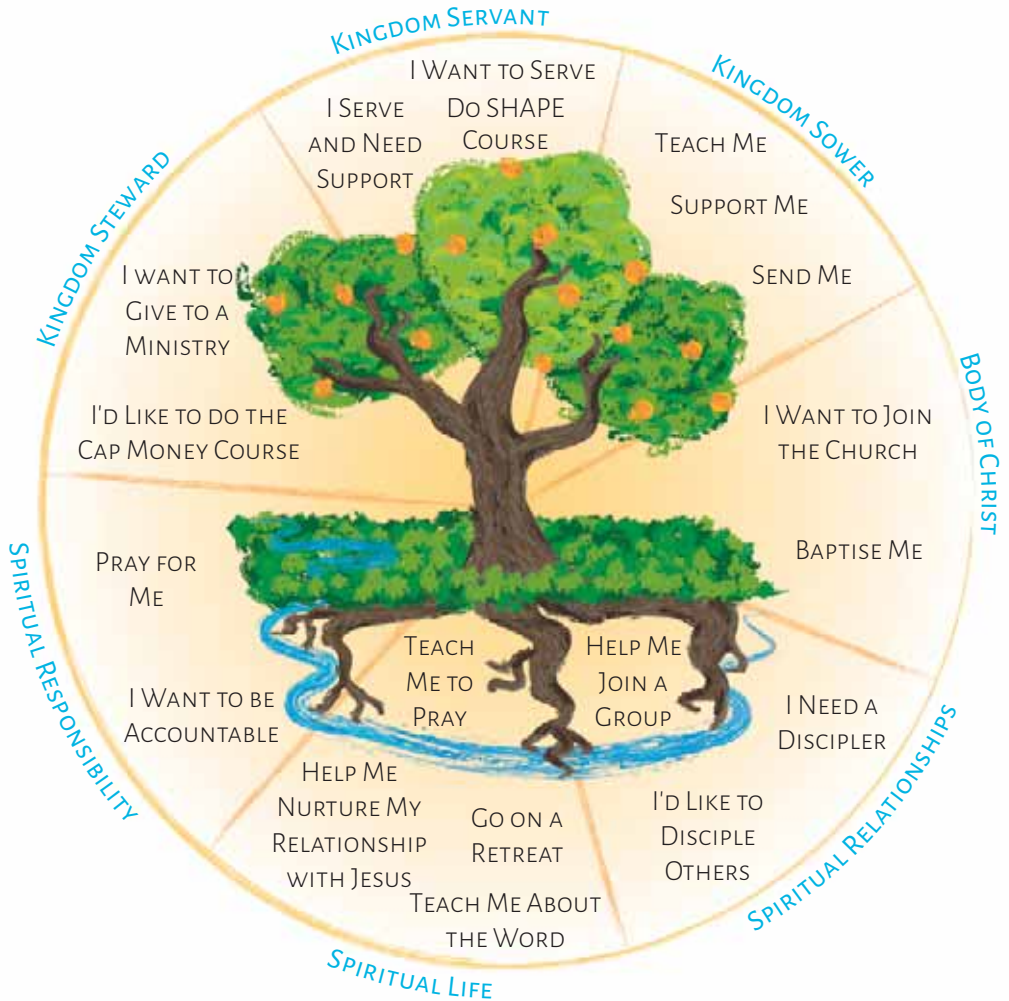
14 For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. 16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. 20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.



What Are My Next Steps?

Show us where you are seeking growth this season

Use the spaces provided to note the areas God is challenging you to focus on. Record actions, courses or groups that will help you grow this year.



NAME: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

I WOULD LIKE TO (INDICATE YOUR NEXT STEPS): _____

You can fill in this page, tear it off and put it into the Care Card box, or you can complete it online at:

www.lifestreamscc.com/discipleship.html