

CONNECT CLASS 2: ENGAGE

Our last session focused on following Jesus. He has called you and I, and God has called us together as His church to impact and transform an evil and dying world. Even Jesus emphasised this when He said, *'I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.'* (Matthew 16:18)

We believe that we are all called to be the church, made up of disciples of Christ, who walk together, disciple each other, learn together, lead together, grow together and transform our communities together.

1. LIFE CHURCH VISION

We believe that it is essential to have a Church vision. Proverbs 29:18, 'Where there is no vision, the people perish.' At Life Church we are people with vision, we have a purpose, we have direction and we are focused on God's call for us as a church.

Our vision statement is:

*'We are a cell-based family Church, loving Jesus by serving and discipling people, transforming community and changing nations; one life at a time.
God Cares We Care People Matter*

'We are a Cell-based Family Church:

At Life Church we recognize that the church is not a building which we come to once a week, but rather the church is people who live together in community, as a family, which happens throughout the week. We emphasize meeting together at the Celebration service on weekends and within our cell groups, which run in many communities in our city during the week.

Loving Jesus by serving and discipling people

To love Jesus Christ, to love God, means that we love what He loves; that we love the church, His people. Jesus' example as we see in the Gospels in the Bible is one of serving all those around Him and discipling those that walked close with Him. We are to do the same.

Matthew 28:19-20 was Jesus' final call for us as His disciples:

'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 that I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of age.'

Serving and Discipling others isn't rocket-science, but rather a responsibility for every person to reach and teach someone else what you have learnt yourself. It's for every generation to reach and teach the next generation. At Life Church we want to Equip and Release you to serve and disciple those around you as Jesus did and has called us to.

Transforming community and changing nations; one life at a time

Jesus calls us to be Salt and Light. Matthew 5:13-16.

If we are to be Salt and Light, it means that there has to be transformation around us because salt and light transforms ALL that it touches. We are a church that wants to see this transformation in every community that each person lives in and that every cell is a part of.

To change a nation, one has to transform a community, one life at a time. As communities change, nations will change.

We encourage you to go to our website Lifechurchint.com and see where all our Life Churches are located.

God Cares We Care People Matter

If we are to love and care for what God loves and cares for, we need to see as God sees. If we could see what God is planning to do in and through the local church, if we could see how he wants to use us in that, then I think our devotion would grow for His bride, the church. God loves people. That is why our vision statement is underscored by the words, 'GOD CARES, WE CARE, PEOPLE MATTER'

2. LIFE CHURCH VALUES

1. BIBLE-BASED

- We are inspired by the Word of God
- We believe in strong Biblical teaching. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

2. DISCIPLESHIP

- We believe that each person is on a discipleship journey, and we want to help grow and develop each member to a place where they can do the same. Matthew 28:19-20
- Our discipleship journey is key to growing, equipping, and releasing leaders.

3. LOVING FAMILY

- We want to see strong relationships and be generationally focused, leaving a Godly heritage.

4. SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

- We want to live passionately, have powerful Spirit-led lives and be active in our spiritual gifts as we engage with the people around us.
- We believe this will be achieved through spiritual disciplines of prayer, worship, fasting, serving

5. MULTI-NATIONAL

- Life Church is a multinational, diverse, multi-ethnic and inclusive church with room for all.

6. MISSIONAL

- Ultimately, we believe that the Church should bring a difference to the community, one of transformation as we see God's love work through us. This happens through us wherever we are and wherever we go.

7. GENERATIONAL

- Life Church is made up of people of all ages, from babies through to youth and to seniors. We believe each age group should be catered for in ministry and that the older will always build into the next generation.

8. GENEROSITY

- We believe that we are all called to live a generous life with our talent, treasure and time for the glory of God and the extension of His Kingdom.

9. SOCIAL JUSTICE

- We believe that the Church has been called to be an extension of God's love and work in defending as well as protecting those who cannot defend themselves. James 1:27

3. LIFE CHURCH CORE STATEMENT OF BELIEFS

We encourage you to also go to our website, www.lifechurchint.com, to read our core statements of belief as a church and to ask questions if there is anything you do not understand.

4. LIFE JOURNEY

Many people want to know what some of the steps are to take in your Christian life as you grow. Below we have some stages that we believe will help you grow in your journey as a Christian and a part of Life Church. These stages are based on Matthew 28:19-20, a key scripture that we centre our philosophy of ministry around.

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, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.”

There are 5 STAGES based on Matthew 28:19-20 and in each stage we want you to grow and mature in:

- Personal life
- Relationship with God
- Discipleship/community with others
- Church culture/values

‘GO’

As we **go**, we **follow** someone in the going:

STAGE 1: WE GO (FOLLOW)

Characteristics of this stage:

- **Follow** someone/God to Celebration or Cell Group.
- **Follow** Jesus as your Lord & Saviour.
- **Follow** someone as they follow Jesus.
- **Follow** Jesus’ example of love (Mark 12:30-31)

‘AND MAKE DISCIPLES

As we **connect**, we make **disciples**:

WE DISCIPLE (CONNECT)

Characteristics of this stage:

- **Connect** with others in discipleship (deep relationships).
- **Connect** in a daily in a two-way relationship with God.
- **Connect** yourself; body, mind, emotions to God to find healing.
- **Connect** and be empowered by the Holy Spirit, learning to use your spiritual gifts.

‘BAPTISING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT’

As we **build** we **belong**:

WE BUILD (BELONG)

Characteristics of this stage:

- **Belong** in healthy relationships and believing for a healthy family.
- Help others **belong** by discipling someone.
- **Belong** in service of others, as Jesus did.
- **Belong** in Life Church as a Vision Carrier.

‘TEACHING THEM ALL I HAVE COMMANDED YOU’

As we are **equipped**, we are **released**:

WE ARE RELEASED (EQUIPPED)

Characteristics of this stage:

- **Equipped** to go deeper in your relationship with God (spiritual disciplines)
- **Equipped** through trials and suffering to grow.

- **Equipped** to Lead and Raise Interns.
- **Equipped** through Life Academy to be released.

'AND SURELY I AM WITH YOU TO THE END OF THE AGE'

As we are **transformed**, we **multiply** and **transform**:

WE MULTIPLY (TRANSFORMATION)

Characteristics of this stage:

- **Transformed** to be like Jesus for His purpose.
- **Transform** your sphere of influence.
- **Transform** your community with other cells.
- **Transform** nations by being a part of Acts 1:8

3. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A MEMBER OF LIFE CHURCH

It is important that we grow and get planted in a local church and so we are not just floating around but actively part of the community. So what does membership look like: Once you have completed all the Connect Classes, are regularly attending cell and celebration, serving in a weekend Service and have had a meeting with one of the Zone Supervisors or Pastors, we will welcome you into membership and invite you to lunch. You can ask your cell leader more about this.

4. CONCLUSION

I hope that this session was helpful and informative. Next you can answer the questions and proceed to connect class 3.