

CONNECT CLASS 2: ENGAGE

Our last session focused on following Jesus. Just as Jesus called Simon Peter, He has called you and I. But it doesn't stop there. God has called us together as His church to impact and influence the world we live in. **Matthew 5:14-15 says 14** "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. **15** Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

So, we believe that we are all called to be the church, made up of disciples, disciples are people that follow Christ, who walk together, sharpen each other, learn together, lead 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*

Let's break it down:

'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 do life 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 happen all around the city during the week.

Loving Jesus by serving and discipling people

That 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.'

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. Seen in Matthew 5:13-16.

If we are to be Salt and Light, transformation first happens in us and then 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 group 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. Presently we do this through our churches in South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe and wherever else God sends us in the future.

God Cares We Care People Matter

God loves people and we should love what He loves. 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 to become more like Christ, and we want to help equip each member to a place where they can do the same with others. 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. Revelation 7:9 "After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands"

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 that no one is too young or too old to be part of God's plans and purposes.

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.

3. LIFE CHURCH CORE STATEMENT OF BELIEFS

WHAT WE BELIEVE:

- That the Bible is the inspired and only infallible word of God. It is accurate, authoritative and applicable to our everyday lives.
- That there is one God, Creator of everything, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, each fully God yet each personally distinct from each other.

Please go to our website www.lifechurchint.com and find the rest of our core statement of beliefs.

QUESTION:

- Do you have any questions about Life Churches statement of beliefs? -do you agree or disagree with any of these statements, we encourage you to discuss it with your cell leader

YOUR LIFE JOURNEY as a believer - *is a Journey with Jesus*

We are called to first be disciples of Jesus, and then to help others on their journey.

As a church Ephesians 4:12-13 says that we are to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

We know that discipleship is not a program but a lifestyle. It is a journey with God and with people. To help you on that journey, our church family has developed these discipleship books.

The first book is called 'Believe like Jesus.' As we journey to ultimately become like Jesus, we need to understand His beliefs. This book aims to guide you in understanding the core beliefs of Jesus.

The second book is called 'Be like Jesus.' As we continue our journey with Jesus, this book focuses on who you are becoming.

The third book is called 'Do Like Jesus'. It encourages believers to actively imitate Jesus' daily actions and lifestyle. As believers grow in their faith, they are called to live out their beliefs through practical actions that mirror Jesus' life.

While you could do these on your own we encourage that you do these with other members of your cell group so that you can discuss it and sharpen each other. You can find these books on our website under resources.

We believe everyone can be a leader in different capacities. As you grow in your relationship with Jesus and in community through your cell groups you will be developed in your leadership capacity to

influence others. You can ask your cell leader more about intern training and how you can grow in your leadership.

As you learn, you need to apply what you have learnt in your areas of influence, your community and in church to make a difference. We don't believe that you just learn for yourself but also for the benefit of those around you.

Why should I become a member of Life church?

1 Corinthians 12 talks about how we are one body in Christ with many parts. How each part is important and that we need each other. As believers we are not meant to do life alone. Putting down roots means you can grow where you are, growing with others and adding value to people around you.

A guide to the journey of becoming a member

Step 1: Attend all four Connect Classes

Step 2: Be actively involved in a Cell Group *this is the place you are pastored and grow with others

Step 3: Serve in a weekend service - using the gifts God has given you

Step 4: **Then** Meet with your leader when you have completed steps 1-3.

you will then be invited to the Membership Lunch with your campus Pastors and Leadership Team.

Whether it is here, or somewhere else, our heart is that you find a local church, get planted where you can flourish and grow .

6. In CONCLUSION

QUESTIONS:

- What stood out to you in this session? If you do not understand something in the vision, values or any part of this session, write down some questions for when you attend class 4 in person or discuss them with your cell leader.
- AS we end this session we encourage you to Check out connect class 3 which gives you the history of our church.