



# GROWTH TRACK

Welcome to Growth Track! In 2006, God gave us a vision for a new church that would eventually reach the nations with the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. There have been many victories and challenges along the way, but God has consistently proven himself to be faithful. From our very first prayer gathering, we knew our calling was to launch a movement focused on connecting people to God and one another. We have prayed from the beginning that God will continue to expand our reach for his glory and our good. Your desire to walk with us through Growth Track is an answer to that prayer. We couldn't be more excited about the opportunity you are giving us to go on this journey with you.

Over these four sessions, you will learn a great deal about the ministry of Community Life Church (c|Life). More importantly, you will have the opportunity to learn more about yourself. At c|Life, we believe every person was created by the hand of God (Psalm 139:13-14) for a purpose (Ephesians 2:10). We believe that when you complete Growth Track, you will have both a clear understanding of who we are as a church and how you can play a role in helping us change the world.

What started as a small group of people with a God-sized dream has become a ministry that leverages the power of God through thousands of people around the world. Welcome to the family!

# STEP ONE

---

CONNECT WITH GOD



C|LIFE AT CLAYBON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 2006

If you would like to watch the history video again or share it with a friend, you can find it at **[clifec.com/history](http://clifec.com/history)**.



Welcome to step one of c|Life's Growth Track! We are thrilled that you want to learn more about the vision and ministry of c|Life. We hope that as you go through Growth Track, you will see this place as your place and that you will be inspired and encouraged to call c|Life home.

Before we go any further, you need to know what our prayer is for you as you walk through this process, and it comes straight out of the scripture:

*<sup>17</sup> I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. <sup>18</sup> I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people.*

**EPHESIANS 1:17-18** NIV

That's it. We want you to connect to God, connect to others, connect to your calling, and ultimately we want you to help us change the world!

This Growth Track booklet will be an invaluable tool for you as you walk through the four steps. We are asking you to commit to completing all four steps of Growth Track. We believe doing so will better prepare you to help us accomplish our mission:

*connecting people to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.*

### **The Four Steps of Growth Track:**

- Step One: Connect with \_\_\_\_\_
- Step Two: Connect with \_\_\_\_\_
- Step Three: Connect to Your \_\_\_\_\_
- Step Four: Change the \_\_\_\_\_

# CONNECT TO GOD

What does it mean to connect to God? You need to know that we have no desire to be a church that just shows you the things of God from a distance. We don't want buildings filled with spectators each week. We believe that the most important thing we do as a church is to introduce people to the God of our salvation. We want you to know him \_\_\_\_\_.

Why is it so important to us that you connect personally to God?

Simply put, connecting to God through Jesus is the only way to salvation. When we read Matthew 7, the words of Jesus compel us to do our best to see people connected to God in a personal way. Jesus said, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven... And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me...'"

It breaks our hearts to know that, in reality, many churchgoers will populate hell because they nailed down the \_\_\_\_\_ of the church but never entered a \_\_\_\_\_ with the Savior.

We want you and everyone you know to \_\_\_\_\_ !

How will we accomplish this goal of connecting people to God?

We believe this connection happens most frequently through our \_\_\_\_\_.

*<sup>25</sup> 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.*

**HEBREWS 10:25** ESV



Most people go to church for themselves, choosing a church based on what they like, don't like, how it makes them feel, etc. You need to realize that at c|Life, we don't exist for the people who are here. We exist for the people who aren't here yet.

There are tons of scriptures that tell us that once we know God, the focus shifts. Why?

We believe that \_\_\_\_\_ people \_\_\_\_\_ people.

We design our Sunday worship gatherings to feed and equip Christians and to reach people who are far from God.

Be prepared, because we will constantly shift things around, add more space, spend additional resources, create new service times, even launch new campuses. In short, we will do anything short of sin to reach lost people.

Why? Because \_\_\_\_\_ people matter to \_\_\_\_\_.

Think about the last thing that you lost that was of value to you. Our guess is you turned your life upside down looking for it. People matter to God, so they matter to us. Because of this, we will stop at nothing to reach them with the invitation of Jesus.

In Luke 15, there are three stories of lost things: a coin, a sheep, and a son. All three stories teach us that God will leave the found things to go after the one that is lost.

*<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. <sup>6</sup> And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ <sup>7</sup> Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.*

**LUKE 15:3-7** ESV

Here is our commitment to you each and every week. Our ministry will consistently provide opportunities for:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

We believe church should be fun! Everything a person experiences at c|Life will be full of energy and joy. Church should never have to be endured. It should always be enjoyed.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

We believe that God is present in our services. As we plan our services, we do so with the desire to lift up the name of Jesus. We want c|Lifers to live lives of victory!

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Do you ever wish you could just stay at church all week? There is something about being with other believers and worshipping God that feeds the soul. It would be nice to stay cocooned at the church, but the reality is we all have to go into the world. One of our weekly goals is to teach about things on Sunday that you can use every other day of the week.

4. \_\_\_\_\_

We believe the most important thing we do is lead people to understand their need for forgiveness. We believe that salvation is only available through Jesus. Because of this, our worship services are designed to connect people to God through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

Every Sunday, regardless of what else we may be teaching, we will do our best to make Jesus the focus. Why? Because we that believe Jesus meant what he said when he testified, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

5. \_\_\_\_\_

We believe the Bible teaches that, following salvation, every follower of Christ should be baptized by immersion, all the way under the water.

First, baptism is a step of \_\_\_\_\_ for believers. Jesus commanded it, so we should do it.

Second, we believe it is a visible and physical \_\_\_\_\_ of someone being moved from death to life in Christ Jesus.

Every time we baptize people, it prompts questions from those watching that often lead to them coming to faith in Jesus. It leads others to connect with God.

We believe the Bible teaches salvation is through faith in Christ alone. We do not believe baptism is essential for salvation, but it is an important act of obedience once a person is saved.

If you have questions about baptism, be sure to talk to your host today!

What do we want your commitment to be should you decide that c|Life will be your church?

**1. Accept personal \_\_\_\_\_ for reaching others with the gospel.**

You know people we do not know. God put you in their lives for a reason. It's your responsibility to take the Gospel message into your circles of influence.

*<sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.* **2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-21** ESV

**2. Build a personal \_\_\_\_\_ with the lost.**

You will notice very quickly that we constantly emphasize the importance of human relationships. In our view, most people don't want a theological argument. They want to know that you care about them.

- \_\_\_\_\_ to them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ where they are coming from.
- Be \_\_\_\_\_ with what they tell you.

**3. Share your \_\_\_\_\_ with humility.**

Our message is never accusatory. We are witnesses of Christ Jesus. What does a witness do? They share their side of the story. So tell your friends, "Here is the difference Jesus made in me!"

**4. Give a personal \_\_\_\_\_ for them to repent of their sins and ask God for forgiveness.** If you can lead them to the Lord, do it!

If you are not confident enough to lead them to salvation, then bring them to church with you, and here is what we promise:

- Things will be in order when they come.
- We will treat them with respect.
- We won't assume that everyone knows all the stories in the Bible.
- We won't use a lot of insider language from the stage.
- We will encourage people toward a decision to follow Christ.

We are committed to \_\_\_\_\_  
to \_\_\_\_\_ wherever people can be found — locally, nationally and internationally — until the whole world hears.

If you believe God has led you to c|Life and this is the place where you plan to grow roots and call home, we want to ask you to do three things:

**1.** \_\_\_\_\_

Pray that God would use all of our energy, resources, creativity, failures and victories to draw people to faith in Jesus' completed work on the cross.

**2.** \_\_\_\_\_

Look for opportunities to share Jesus with friends and family. Look for ways to serve other people in Jesus name.

**3.** \_\_\_\_\_

Invite the people God places in your circle of influence to join us in connecting people to God and one another.

## ARE YOU CONNECTED TO GOD?

There is a chance that as you have gone through this material, everything was a blur after we highlighted the passage where Jesus said, “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven... And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me...’” (Matthew 7:21,23)

When you read that passage, everything else just became white noise because you know that you don’t have a personal relationship with God. You know that you have never repented of your sin and received forgiveness through Jesus. You know that if today were your last day, you would die without Christ and face an eternity separated from him in a real place called hell. If that is you, we have good news for you. You can still be forgiven and receive new life in Christ!

There is one passage in the Bible that pretty much sums up the entire gospel:

*<sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**ROMANS 6:23** ESV

We have all sinned. We have all missed the mark when it comes to living up to God’s standards. We have all willfully pushed against the clear commands of scripture. All of us.

The sins we have committed have earned us eternal death and damnation, separation from God for all of eternity in a place of torment and hopelessness. That is what we are owed.

But the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. When Jesus went to the cross, he did so having never committed an offense. The perfect and spotless Son of God took upon himself the full wrath of God so that you and I might receive forgiveness. We don't deserve it, and we didn't earn it. But, like any gift, we have to accept it before we can call it ours.

If you have never been saved, you may be connected to a church, but we don't want you to be deceived. You are not connected to God. That connection only happens when you agree with God that you need to be forgiven and receive the forgiveness he offers you through Jesus.

If today is your day of salvation, then simply have a conversation with God where you acknowledge your sinfulness and confess your need for forgiveness. Believe that Jesus' death on the cross paid the penalty for your sin, and then receive the gift of life made available by the resurrection of Christ, who was victorious over sin and death.

If you prayed to receive new life in Christ, let us be the first to say, "Welcome to the family!" Please let your host know about your decision, so they can celebrate with you and give you information regarding your first steps as a new believer.

Thank you for being a part of session one of Growth Track. Let's go! Let's do everything we can to accomplish the mission of connecting people to God.

# ANSWER KEY

## Step One: Connect with God

- Page 5:** God, one another; God; Others; Calling; World
- Page 6:** personally; rituals, relationship; know God; worship services
- Page 7:** found, find; lost, God
- Page 8:** Celebration; Inspiration; Preparation;
- Page 9:** Salvation; Baptism; obedience; testimony
- Page 10:** responsibility; relationship; Listen; Understand; trustworthy; personal story
- Page 11:** invitation; connecting people, God; Pray; Engage; Invite

## Step Two: Connect to Others

- Page 17:** designed
- Page 18:** one type; Everyone; host; created, connection; right influences
- Page 19:** grow up; role; play

## Step Three: Connect to Your Calling

- Page 22:** called
- Page 23:** gifts, passions; life experiences; pain; Discover; Dream Team

## Step Four: Change the World

- Page 44:** change, world; Church; Serve; do, be; Steward, Giving; you; temporal, eternal; materialism; blessings
- Page 45:** image; the church; our generosity; through; Share; relational