



# GROWTH TRACK

**SESSION TWO: KNOW GOD "BELIEVE"**

SESSION 1  
BELONG

**SESSION 2  
BELIEVE**

SESSION 3  
BECOME

SESSION 4  
BUILD



# WELCOME TO GROWTH TRACK!

Church is not just a place to attend, but a community to Belong to. The best way to dive into community is through Growth Track. Throughout our four weeks together, you will learn how to how you Belong to our Church Family, how to Believe in God & Grow in Faith, how you Become who God designed you to be, and learn how to Build together by playing your part on the Team.

## 1. **BELONG – Be Family**

You are formed for God's Family and created for community. We are Called to Be Family. God considers us members of His Family. Our decision to Be Family brings us into a growing relationship with others and with God.

“...You are members of God's very own family, citizens of God's country, and you belong in God's household with every other Christian.”

Ephesians 2:19 (TLB)

Like to take notes? There are spaces to write after each section just for you!

## 2. **BELIEVE – Know God**

We are Called to Know God. Know Him intimately, personally, and relationally.

“ . . . I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom”

Ephesians 1:16–17 (NLT)

## 3. **BECOME – Live Purpose**

You are not here by accident. You are here on Purpose, with Purpose and for a Purpose. Discover your God-Designed Purpose through Growth Track.

“For everything, absolutely everything, above and below visible and invisible . . . everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him.” Colossians 1:16 (MSG)

## 4. **BUILD – Join Team**

We’ll answer the question, now that you know why you’re here, what do you do with the gifts God has given to you? Join the Team. Get on Team to start Building God’s House.

“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.”  
1 Peter 4:10 (NLT)

# KNOW GOD

Our hope is to help you learn and put into practice four essential habits of every follower of Jesus. It is through these habits that we develop a deep relationship with Christ and move our lives forward toward God's best.

● “So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”

Colossians 2:6–7 (NIV)

## **FACTS ABOUT SPIRITUAL MATURITY**

● “Take time and trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit.” 1 Timothy 4:7 (Ph)

1. It is not automatic.
2. It is a process.
3. It takes discipline.

## UNDERSTANDING DISCIPLESHIP

● “...And for an entire year they met with the church and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.”

Acts 11:26 (NAS)

1. Mature believers are called disciples.
2. The term disciple comes from the word discipline.
3. The more like Christ I become the more God can use me.
4. The mark of a disciple is cross bearing.

● Jesus said, “Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.”  
Luke 14:27

5. How often am I to do this? Daily.

● Jesus said “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.”  
Luke 9:23

6. What is involved in “cross bearing?”

Whatever it takes to give Christ first place in my life!

## HOW CAN I BECOME A DISCIPLE?

By developing the habits of a disciple.

“... You have put off the old self with its HABITS, and have put on the new self ... which God is continually renewing in his own image, to bring you to a full knowledge of himself.” Colossians 3:9-10 (GN)

Definition of “habit” (Webster’s Dictionary):

“A continual, often unconscious inclination to do a certain activity, acquired through frequent repetition. An established disposition of the character.”

### **The habits of a disciple are:**

1. Bible study and prayer.
2. Fellowship with other believers.
3. Growing spiritually by living a Spirit led life.
4. Giving of yourself.

# HABIT ONE: BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER

The Bible reveals God's thoughts, God's will, and God's ways.

## **We learn from the stories of scripture.**

People like David, Solomon, Naomi, Deborah, Samson, Apostle Paul, Mary, Simon... we learn about God through their Stories.

## **We learn from the instructions of scripture.**

The Psalms teach us to praise God. Proverbs gives us the wisdom of God. The Gospels give us the teachings of Jesus. The Epistles give us teaching as Christians who are part of the Church.

● "All scripture is God breathed . . ."  
1 Timothy 3:16 (NIV)

● "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." Romans 10:17 (ESV)

 “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” Acts 2:42 (NIV)

**I must work with a Plan:**

**Life Journal Plan (SOAP)**

The Life Journal Devotional Reading Plan comes in digital format or hard copy. You can download the free digital format version at your app provider. Under reading plans then download the life journal reading plan. Otherwise use a journal, you can either buy the life journal with a reading plan in it at Koorong or we can provide you with a calendar of the reading plan & you can use your own notebook. This plan works on the basis of reading about 3 chapters of the bible a day & over a year means you read through the entire bible. Whilst reading you are looking for God to speak to you through a verse, thought or phrase or word. Then the concept is to journal some devotional thoughts about the verse.

**The word SOAP is used as an acrostic to help structure your devotional thoughts:**

**S** – write out the Scripture at the top of the page

**O** – write your Observations about who this was written to & what the context of the thoughts are. What did it mean to the original hearers? (Just a sentence or two)

**A** – write a personal Application of how this thought speaks to you, what it challenges in you. What is the underlying timeless principle? How could I practice that principle? (maybe a paragraph or two)

**P** – write out a brief prayer (Just a few sentences)

Prayer is simply communication. Be in Constant Conversation with God.



“Always be joyful. Never stop praying.”  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-17(NLT)

In the beginning we were created to have fellowship with God but because of Adam’s fall Jesus sacrificed Himself to make a relationship with God possible.

Jesus exemplified a personal relationship with God through prayer that gave Him great strength.

Every person who has ever been effective in service for God has developed this habit. The only way to be a healthy Christian is to commune with God daily through prayer!

**NOTES:**

## HABIT TWO:

# BE IN COMMUNITY WITH OTHER BELIEVERS

Growing spiritually doesn't happen when we know what Jesus says. It happens when we apply what he says. Application happens best within the context of community. To grow spiritually, you have to be connected relationally. Being connected relationally happens as we are consistent in our behaviours of connection.

Connection is a behaviour not a feeling.

Community begins by being present and participating with other believers in three specific ways. These three elements of community are the keys to growing in our relationship with God.

### 1. Church Services

Church is God's idea and central to his plan for us to grow in our relationship with him.

“Planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God.” Psalm 92:13 (NIV)

Consistency in attending Church on Sunday's is a good starting point to build Connection.

Church is not just a place to attend but a community to belong to.

### 2. Connect Groups

We see the benefits of community in the book of Acts:

- “They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Acts 2:46-47

Connection is enhanced as we join a Connect Group. Connect Groups are key to our discipleship plan. Connect Groups is doing Church in circles not just rows. Connect Groups are not a program. They are an integral part of our strategy to grow, to help us disciple people, to help us care for each other organically.

Connect Groups are 6-12 people meeting fortnightly in homes or café's – meeting wherever. The goal is to connect spiritually, relationally & socially. We conduct several connect campaigns throughout the year to launch new groups. Sign up today, join a group. Start or host a group in your home.

- “And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” Acts 2:42–47 (NIV)

### **3. Serve on a Team**

We begin to make a difference with our lives when we begin to serve on the team.

*“Everyone can be great because everyone can serve.”*

*–Martin Luther King Jr.*

Being on team is one of the best ways to upsize your connection in our Church. Impact Church has teams, to practically fulfill the mission of the local Church, but to also give people opportunities to fulfill their personal call to build God's house. Jesus gave his life for us, so we give out time, talent and treasure in response, to see His Kingdom come.

**NOTES:**

# HABIT THREE: LIVING A SPIRIT-LED LIFE

● “I’m telling you these things while I’m still living with you. The Friend, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send at my request, will make everything plain to you. He will remind you of all the things I have told you. I’m leaving you well and whole. That’s my parting gift to you. Peace. I don’t leave you the way you’re used to being left—feeling abandoned, bereft. So don’t be upset. Don’t be distraught.”

John 14:25–27 (MSG)

## WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

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**The Holy Spirit is the person and power of Almighty God who comes to live in us.**

● “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever.”

John 14:16 (NASB)

# THE HOLY SPIRIT'S ROLE IN OUR LIVES

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**Because He dwells in us, He begins to change us and empowers us from the inside out.**

## **1. The Holy Spirit is our helper:**

The Holy Spirit is here to help you get beyond what is possible in your own strength. He helps us harness habits and overcome habits that would otherwise destroy us.

## **2. The Holy Spirit is our teacher:**

He teaches us things that grow us and makes us stronger in our faith. He eliminates blind spots we have about ourselves like pride, selfishness, and envy and He teaches us the ways of God.

## **3. The Holy Spirit is reminder:**

As a believer you will hopefully learn a lot more than you can actually retain in your own memory. The good news is that when you put yourself in a place to keep drinking in the knowledge and wisdom of God, you will be amazed at how things will pop up in your mind, courtesy of the Holy Spirit!

**The ultimate purpose of the Holy Spirit is to produce the character of Christ in us. Scripture calls this the Fruit of the Spirit.**

 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control”  
Galatians 5:22–23 (NIV)

“What does it mean to be led by the Holy Spirit? Some may refer to it as being filled with . . . or sensitive to . . . or anointed by the Spirit. It probably sounds really spiritual. But being led by the Spirit is actually a very practical part of living the Christian life. Simply put, to be led by the Holy Spirit just means to be obedient to Him.”  
—Joyce Meyer

**NOTES:**

## HABIT FOUR:

# GIVING OF OURSELVES

- “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16 (NIV)

The Gospel is the ultimate demonstration of God’s generous nature towards mankind. The Bible consistently teaches that God blesses us so that we may bless others.

- “This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.”  
2 Corinthians 9:12–13 (NIV)

# HOW WE GIVE

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1. **Generous with our resources.**
2. **Generous with our gestures.**
3. **Generous with our talents**

# WHY WE GIVE

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**Generosity Drives Us:** With our resources, gestures, and talents to influence others.

## 1. **Giving is an act of worship:**

“There’s nothing we can give God that He needs. And God certainly doesn’t need our money. But when we give an offering to God—an undesignated, planned, and proportional offering where and when we worship—we’re saying, ‘God I love you.’”

– Rick Warren

## 2. **Giving is an act of investing in others:**

“When we invest our money in developing relationships within the church, it points others to God. Investing in the fellowship (community) of your Church helps bring people to Christ.”

– Rick Warren

## 3. **Giving is an investment in eternity:**

Our hope is that people would hear the message and give their lives to Christ. Every dollar translates into a life saved. We do this at Impact Church by serving and growing the local church, and developing our online location.

 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth... but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”  
Matthew 6:19–21 (NIV)

Giving supports your Church financially. Your financial support and generosity allow us to create the quality environments that you and your family enjoy on a weekly basis.

Your financial support enables us to create environments for people to experience Christ & His life changing message.

Go ALL IN.....Have a GIVING PLAN that SUPPORTS your CHURCH.

We believe that we are all called to be contributors to building the Church, our Church. We are here to build. Building requires contribution. A contribution of our time, talent & treasure to build God’s house.

God’s word clearly teaches that we are to honour God with our wealth, with all of our increase. We are instructed to bring to his Church a tithe, 10%, of all God blesses us with. We believe in being generous.

 “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”  
Matthew 23:23

We make plans for all kinds of areas in life. Why not make a plan to give so that your commitment will be consistent? This is one very practical way that we can be a blessing to our Church and help build our Church together.

How can I give to the Church?

During every service we take time to worship God through our giving. You can plan on giving at that time, or you also can take advantage of other electronic giving options: Eftpos at Connect Desk, Phone App Giving, Website Giving, Direct online giving.

## **AUTOMATED GIVING FROM YOUR BANK**

This pattern of giving is the easiest of all. Your consistent, planned generosity makes it possible for us to budget and dream responsibly. Setting up giving as an automatic transfer is one way we can guarantee that our giving is consistent, whether we are in Church or not. We encourage people to give electronically & to set up automatic transfers.

It's not important How we give, but it is important that We give!

We are a Generous Church . Vision has No Legs without Pro-Vision. Vision can only Move at the level of Pro-Vision.

### **Our Online Banking Details are:**

**Impact Church Ltd**

**BSB 064 170**

**A/c No. 1051-3575**

**Impact Care Services Ltd (Charity)**

**BSB 064-170**

**A/c No. 1069-7490**

Note – Gifts \$2 & above given to Impact Care Services are Tax Deductible. Place your name as a Ref & we will issue you with a Tax Deductible receipt.

# THE NEXT STEPS

NEXT IS SESSION THREE: BECOME

## **Become a valued Partner of Impact Church by:**

- Joining a Connect Group
- Completing Growth Track
- Serving on a Team

## NOTES:



