



GROWTH TRACK

SESSION ONE: BE FAMILY "BELONG"

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 is a space at the back of this booklet 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)

BELONG

Our hope for Session One is to help you learn more about BELONGING & being FAMILY here at Impact Church.

- “Zeal for your house consumes me.” Psalm 69:9 (NIV)
- “And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church.” Matthew 16:18 (NIV)
- “The church, you see, is not peripheral to the world; the world is peripheral to the church. The church is Christ’s body, in which he speaks and acts, by which he fills everything with his presence.”
Ephesians 1:23 (MSG)

OUR CULTURE

HOW WE LIVE

Every church has a culture, and Impact Church is no exception. We are intentional about the culture of our house. Everything we do is by design.

“We create environments where people are encouraged and equipped to pursue intimacy with God, community with insiders, and influence with outsiders”

Jesus was on a mission to bring heaven’s culture to earth. Jesus wanted to bring something much more than a temporary solution. He wanted to bring a revolution, a new way of living. He wanted to bring heaven’s way of doing things.

The primary purpose of the Church is to bring heaven to earth! To establish Kingdom Culture. Jesus prayed:

- “Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Matthew 6:10 NKJV

Jesus would often say “I know you have heard it said, but I say unto you...”
WWJD = what was Jesus doing? Saying “I know your culture taught you this, when you were growing up you learnt this but I am bringing a new culture – Kingdom Culture.

Every Church has a culture – either by default or design. Jesus came with a heaven inspired culture that was by design. A culture that God is intentional about, deliberate about building it into our lives.

It requires Team Work to build Kingdom Culture.

Coming together is a Beginning...

Staying together is Progress...

Building together is Success...

Culture of Inclusion

The most important person in our Church is the next one through the door. We need to be present & participating by creating welcoming environments for new people. Welcome each other, greet each other. Shake hands, hug, catch-up over coffee at the café.

Church is a Family Gathering. Love the family. Intentionally build a culture that is people focused.

 “Dear, dear Corinthians, I can’t tell you how much I long for you to enter this wide-open, spacious life. We didn’t fence you in. The smallness you feel comes from within you. Your lives aren’t small, but you’re living them in a small way. I’m speaking as plainly as I can and with great affection. Open up your lives. Live openly and expansively!”
2 Corinthians 6:11-13 Message Bible

Called to live open & expansive lives. Open up our lives to people, make room for people. Choice to live small or to live large. Choice to include or exclude. To include means to connect people. When people visit we make them feel included. We open our hearts & homes.

Prejudice and exclusion are foreign to God’s culture. We accept & embrace people. We are inclusive not exclusive.

The good news is for anybody, anytime, anywhere. I love the inclusiveness of the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is the most inclusive message in all of society.



“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. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him”

John 3:16-17

The Church we see considers everyone...

We will be generous in gesture & affirm everyone as someone deeply loved by God. We are generous in gesture & deed.

We celebrate people from diverse backgrounds who are like-minded, one in spirit & united in purpose. We live approved of God.

Our culture is a culture of inclusion.

Culture of Honour

We are building a house of honour. Teaching people how to live in & with honour. To “give honour where honour is due”. Honour means “to give value to” to recognise the value of something.

Honour elevates everything around it. Honour is aware & notices things of value. Honour refuses to treat valuable things as ordinary. Honour builds relationships & connections. Honour is attractive & contagious.

We honour leaders & leadership. We honour each other.

We honour God. We do this by our connection to his house & our contribution to his house. We honour God with our finances by tithing & giving sacrificially. Honour expresses itself in generosity.

The Church we see is a Church that honours up, down & all around... our culture is a culture of honour.

Culture of Celebration

Our worship is a celebration, we are passionate about praise. We believe God deserves our best. We are loud & proud, we are responsive. We are encouraging, exciting & full of life. We are extravagant in generosity towards God & one another.

God loves to celebrate & loves his children to celebrate. Celebration is a part of heaven's culture. In Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy (the heavy books of Old Testament) instructs 29 times to celebrate.

In Deuteronomy 16 all the festivals & offerings were celebrations. Celebrate with singing, dancing, food, family & friends. Centred around celebrating God's goodness, favour & blessing.

Sometimes we get it so wrong – we think Church is a heavy & serious place. Church is a place of celebration, we gather to celebrate.

Q “How did we take something intended to be so magnificent & make it so miserable?”

- “Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the Priest and scribe, and the Levities who were interpreting for the people said to them, “Don't weep on such a day as this! For today is a sacred day before the Lord your God.” All the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the law. And Nehemiah continued, “Go and celebrate with a feast of choice foods and sweet drinks, and share gifts of food with people who have nothing prepared. This is a sacred day before our Lord. Don't be dejected and sad, for the joy of the Lord is your strength!” Nehemiah 8:9-10

Sacred – not Solemn. Sacred was not a call to be sad or serious. Sacred was a call to celebrate God’s goodness. Celebrating is to cheer each other on.

Called to be a cheer squad to each other. Cheer on the team. Cheer on the praise & worship. Cheer on the preaching. Create a climate, an environment, of enthusiasm.

The Church we see expresses life...

We will be life giving, expressive & passionate in our praise & worship.

Our culture is a culture of celebration.

Culture of Inviting

Inviting starts with Investing in people. People are the only thing that matters to God. Investing is simply building relationship with people. Investing yourself by intentionally building relationships with people that are not yet Christian. People that are close to you but far from God. Have an eye for the broken, hurting, lost, lonely, & needy. People that have given up on Church. Keep the focus on people that are not here yet - invite and bring people.

Investing must lead to inviting. Become an inviter. Invite people to Church. Invite to a function, connect group outing. Invite people to Christ. Don’t give up on people if they don’t accept, keep investing.

- ‘Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here *the* poor and *the* maimed and *the* lame and *the* blind.’ And the servant said, ‘Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.’ Then the master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel *them* to come in, that my house may be filled.’
Luke 14:21-23 NKJV

Go quickly & bring people in. Churches are full of great singers, but God has called us to be great bringers not singers!!! Don't just be a singer be a bringer!! There is a sense of urgency, it is the priority of life for a God follower. Go quickly, don't get distracted, fill the house quickly.

The Church we see is advancing...

**We will be vision fueled & faith filled & always moving forward.
We are committed to the cause of Christ.**

We are here to bring help & hope to as many as possible. Here to be the heart & hands of Jesus to our world. Here to advance, here to build.

We focus on people who are not here yet. We invite and bring people.

Our culture is a culture of inviting.

Culture of Preparation

- “On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, Jesus’ disciples asked him, “Where do you want us to go to prepare the Passover meal for you?” So Jesus sent two of them into Jerusalem with these instructions: “As you go into the city, a man carrying a pitcher of water will meet you... Follow him. At the house he enters, say to the owner, ‘The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room where I can eat the Passover meal with my disciples?’ He will take you upstairs to a large room that is already set up. That is where you should prepare our meal.” Mark 14:12-15

Sunday's are all about preparing the room for others. They are about being ready for those that come to God's House. We prepare the room to host the presence of God & the people of God.

Our leaders & teams don't come to Church on Sunday for us. We come for others, we prepare for others. We are not relying on Sundays for our nourishment. We are setting up the room ready for God & people, we provide environments where God connection happens.

Maturity is in understanding it's not about us. Maturity prepares for others. Immaturity says "I didn't like the worship today" "I didn't enjoy the preaching today".

When we come with an attitude of preparation we never miss out. When we make it all about preparing the room for others we never miss out on what God has in store for us.

The Church we see has a culture of preparation. We create an environment where God connection happens.

Our culture is a culture of preparation.

How we live...

We Include... not exclude

We Honour... up, down, & all around

We Celebrate... we are life giving, expressive, & passionate in our worship.

We Invite... we focus on people that are not here yet - we invite and bring people.

We Prepare... we create an environment where God connection happens.

OUR VISION

WHAT WE DO

“Reach People, Make Disciples, Build Church”

We have three priorities as a Church – to Reach, Make & Build. Reach People, Make Disciples, Build Church.

Reaching People is our Priority. We are here to help bring people far from God close to God. Everything we do is for this purpose. Everything we do is tied into people connecting with God, hearing God’s Word and saying yes to Jesus. That’s why we are here.

- “The Lord your God is one; so love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence and energy” Mark 12:30
- “The Master said, “Then go to the country roads. Whoever you find, drag them in, I want my House full!” Luke 14:23

Making Disciples is our Priority – the last command of Jesus is our first priority! We are here to take people on a journey of becoming fully devoted followers of God.

- “They joined together with other believers and devoted themselves to the Apostles’ teaching and fellowship, sharing in the Lord’s supper and in prayer.....They worshipped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity”
Acts 2:42,46

Building the Church is our Priority. Jesus said:

- “I will Build My Church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it” Matthew 16:18

Church building is God’s priority & must be the priority of every believer. We believe that our devotion to building the house of God reflects the love we have for God himself. Church is God’s “plan a” for the planet. Building his Church is greatest life investment.

- “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—His good, pleasing, and perfect will.” Romans 12:1–2

OUR PROMISES

1. We will Consider Everyone

We will be generous in gesture and affirm everyone as someone deeply loved by God.

2. We will Honour Up, Down & All Around

We will honour leaders & leadership. We will honour God by our Connection & Contribution. His House & His people.

3. We will Express Life

We will be life-giving, expressive, and passionate in our worship and in Connect Groups.

4. We will Keep Advancing

We will be vision-fueled, faith-filled, and always moving forward.

5. We will Make Preparation

We will prepare rooms & environments for people to have God connections.

OUR CODE

WHO WE ARE

We are Not a Religious Church - Rules Don't Drive Us.

We are Not a Program Driven Church. We are driven by our Vision, Mission, Values & Code. We are not driven by Programs, we are driven by Steps. We place People Above Programs.

We are Spirit-led without being Weird.

We are Mission-Minded without Diluting the Life-Giving Message of Jesus. Our Commitment to Jesus Shapes Everything We Believe & Do.

We are a Relationship Church. We Love God & We Love People. We Include, We Don't Exclude.

We Don't Tell It Like It Is. We Tell It Like It Could Be. We have a Faith-Filled Life-Giving Message.

We are Not about Perfection, We are about Progress.

WE BELIEVE IN JESUS

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is Our Everything. The Goodness of what God has Done for Us is the Motivation for All We Do.

WE EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

Faith Requires Risk. We will Risk More and Anticipate Change. We are Vision Fuelled & Faith Filled. We are here to Advance & Build. We Focus on People that are Not Here Yet.

WE FEEL OUR FAITH

We are a Church Filled with Heartfelt Prayer and Passionate Worship. We are Life Giving, Expressive & Passionate in Our Praise & Worship. We Celebrate & Participate.

WE DON'T HAVE PERFECT PEOPLE

We are Not Religious or Legalistic. Our Goal isn't Perfection, it's Progress. Authenticity with God and Each Other is the Best Way for a Spiritual Family to be Healthy and Whole.

WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK

The Strength of All of Us is Greater than the Strength of Any One of Us. Team Work makes the Dream Work.

WE SERVE HARD

We are Action-Oriented and Addicted to Constant Improvement. We want to Make a Difference, and we're Ready to Sweat to See it Happen.

WE LOVE BIG

We Reach the Many by Never Losing Sight of the One. We go the Second Mile so Our Church will Look Like Heaven. We are Diverse in Every Way, yet United as the Body of Christ. We Celebrate People from Diverse Backgrounds who are Like-Minded, One in Spirit & United in Purpose. We Do Second Chances, We Do Grace. We Do Restoration.

WE AREN'T AFRAID TO FIGHT

We Defend the Culture, Mission, Values and Unity of Our Church, the Vision of Our Leadership, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We Protect the Unity of Our Church. We Share the Responsibility of Our Church.

WE PUT GOD TO THE TEST

Generosity is a Trust Issue. We Choose to Believe God by Giving Sacrificially. We are a Tithing Church.

OUR VALUES

BELONG

We value being family & growing in connection & community.

BELIEVE

We value knowing God & growing in faith.

BECOME

We value making a difference by growing in the contribution God intends for our lives to make. We want you to grow your contribution.

BUILD

We value each one having a part to play & playing your part. Partner with us by playing your part growing your influence.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE FAMILY

Every family in life comes together because of a common vision and goals, and Impact Church is no different.

We've shared our Culture, our Vision, our Promises, our Values, and our Code, and now we want to share with you what it looks like to be a part of the family:

IN THIS HOUSE:

1. **We protect the unity of our Church:**

- By acting in love toward other members.

“Have a sincere love for your fellow believers, love one another earnestly with all your heart.” 1 Peter 1:22 (GNB)

- By refusing to gossip.

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs.”
Ephesians 4:29 (NIV)

- By following the leaders.

“Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be no advantage to you.” Hebrews 13:17 (NIV)

2. We share the responsibility of our Church:

- By praying for its growth.

“To the church . . . we always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers.”
1 Thessalonians 1:1–2 (NIV)

- By inviting the unchurched to attend.
- By warmly welcoming those who visit.

“Go out into the country . . . and urge anyone you find to come, so that my house will be full.” Luke 14:23 (NLT)

3. We serve the ministry of our Church:

- By discovering our gifts and talents. (Session 3)

Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you. "Christ himself gave . . . some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up."

Ephesians 4:11–12 (NIV)

- By being equipped to serve our pastors.
- By developing a servant's heart.

"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ . . . who took on the very nature of a servant."

Philippians 2:3–4, 7

4. We support the Culture, Vision, Promises, Values & Code of our Church:

- By attending Church and Connect Groups faithfully and by living a Godly life.

“Let us not give up meeting together . . .
but let us encourage one another.”
Hebrews 10:25 (NIV)

- By giving regularly.

“On the first [day] of each week, let
each one of you [personally] put aside
something and save it up as he has
prospered [in proportion to what he is
given].”

1 Corinthians 16:2 (AMP)

“A tithe of everything from the land,
whether grain from the soil or fruit
from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is
holy to the Lord.” Leviticus 27:30 (NIV)

THE NEXT STEPS

NEXT IS SESSION TWO: BELIEVE

Become a valued Partner of Impact Church by:

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

NOTES:

