



GROW COURSE

lifehouse





lifehouse

INTERNATIONAL CHURCH

    | mylifehouse.com

OUR STORY



We saw a vision of a big wave of God's love, joy, and peace sweeping over Japan. It was clear to us that God was going to do something significant. We made it our goal to move to Japan and plant a church where people could connect with God and personally experience His love, joy, and peace. We knew that if people found faith in Jesus, they would also find purpose for their lives. Working with an initial team of 10 young Australians and 2 Japanese, our desire to plant a church became a reality when Lifehouse Church was launched in mid-2002. The first service was attended by 30 people in central Tokyo.

From the start, our focus was to reach the lost through friendships, life-giving Sunday services, and connect groups. The bilingual services and joyful worship attracted people who were hearing about Jesus for the first time. In its first year the church grew to over 60 people—twice the size of the national average for churches in Japan. In our second year our Sunday-service attendance grew to roughly 100. And from the 3rd to 6th years, the church grew to an average of 500 people attending weekly services. In its 6th year, Lifehouse Church planted Lifehouse Osaka as the first of 13 church plants in the nation of Japan, with another 5 church plants outside of Japan in Hong Kong, Taiwan, China, Bali, and Honolulu.

Today, Lifehouse Church is collectively in the thousands. We want to invite you to join us and be part of the wonderful miracle work God is doing in people's lives. Please come and experience God's presence, love, joy, and peace, and discover the great plan He has for you.

Pastors Rod and Viv Plummer.

OUR DESIRE

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."
Jeremiah 29:11 NLT

God has a plan for you! Our desire is that through the Lifehouse Grow Course you will discover the plan God has for you and develop your purpose and ability to live the full life God has created you for. The Grow Course is made up of four steps, which will guide you through the next steps in your journey to connect with God, connect with people, connect with church, and connect with purpose. In essence, we want you to feel empowered to make a difference—not only in your life but also in the lives of those around you.

OUR PRAYER FOR YOU

So we keep on praying for you, asking our God to enable you to live a life worthy of his call. May he give you the power to accomplish all the good things your faith prompts you to do.
2 Thessalonians 1:11 NLT

CONTENTS

The Lifehouse Grow Course will guide you to discover your purpose and live the life God created you for. The Grow Course is made up of Four Steps that will equip you to connect with God, connect with people, connect with church, and connect with purpose so that you can make a difference by serving others.

1

STEP ONE: CONNECT WITH GOD

Learn the spiritual journey that God has for each of us.

2

STEP TWO: CONNECT WITH PEOPLE

Discover the many friendships and relationships that God has for you.

3

STEP THREE: CONNECT WITH CHURCH

Explore the ministry of Lifehouse Church, and find how to connect with us.

4

STEP FOUR: CONNECT WITH PURPOSE

Discover your personality type and motivational gifts, and how they reveal purpose. Explore the opportunities available to make a difference by serving others.



STEP ONE

CONNECT WITH GOD

We consider knowing God and reaching people who do not yet know God personally to be one of our greatest priorities. Our Sunday services are primarily designed to help people at all stages in their spiritual walk to connect with God, but especially those who do not yet have a personal relationship with God.

“Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the Law of Moses?” Jesus replied, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Matthew 22:36-39 NLT

Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20 NLT



WHO IS JESUS?

In order to know the plan for our lives we need to know the Creator. Jesus is the way to the Father and our Creator. God wants to draw us into a close and personal relationship with him so that he can reveal the good plan and purpose he has for us.



**In order to know the
plan for our lives we need
to know the Creator.**



THE WAY

Jesus answered, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. The only way to the Father is through me."

John 14:6 ERV

THE CREATOR

God is our creator! He has created us with a very special feature: "to be like himself," and he has a special plan for our lives. However, sin has the power to separate us from God and all the good plans he has prepared for us.

So God created humans in his own image. He created them to be like himself. He created them male and female.

Genesis 1:27 ERV

When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.

Romans 5:12 NLT

This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions.

Colossians 1:21 NLT



THE SON

The bible tells us that God's answer to sin was to send his one and only Son Jesus to earth to show us the heart and nature of God.

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

For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

John 1:17 NIV

THE DEATH & RESURRECTION

Jesus died a painful death on the cross, but God raised him back to life three days later. There were many witnesses who confirmed: Jesus is Alive!

"These Jews did all the bad things that the Scriptures said would happen to Jesus. Then they took Jesus down from the cross and put him in a tomb. But God raised him up from death! After this, for many days, those who had gone with Jesus from Galilee to Jerusalem saw him. They are now his witnesses to our people."

Acts 13:29-31 ERV

THE RECONCILIATION

The death of Christ in his physical body has made a way to bring us back into relationship with God.

Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.

Colossians 1:22 NLT

THE NEW LIFE

God's purpose is to bring life, and that life is good and satisfying.

The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

John 10:10 NLT



THE SAVIOR

Jesus is our savior!

"Jesus is the only one who can save people. His name is the only power in the world that has been given to save anyone. We must be saved through him!"

Acts 4:12 ERV

LIFE WITH JESUS

Finding life with Jesus is so exciting and it means the start of a new story for your life. This is a new beginning, it's your story told in your own special way. Because we believe your journey of faith is compelling and significant, we encourage you to:

- a) Accept personal responsibility. There are people in your life that would love to know about your journey of faith. Why not share it with them in your own natural style?
- b) Build a personal relationship. Invite people into your world. People want to know that you are real and that your friendship is genuine.
- c) Share your personal story. Because your story is compelling and significant, why not learn to tell your story in three minutes or so?
- d) Give a personal invitation. Inviting people into your world means inviting them to share in the things that are important to you: things like connect group or church would be great places to extend an invitation to.

"Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full.

Luke 14:23 NIV



**...compel them to come in,
so that my house will be full.**

Luke 14:23 NIV



SUNDAY SERVICES

Our Sunday services focus on four values:

1. CELEBRATION

We believe church should be enjoyable.

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."
Psalm 122:1 NLT

2. INSPIRATION

We believe church should be a place where people experience God's presence.

But if everyone is proclaiming God's message when some unbelievers or ordinary people come in, they will be convinced of their sin by what they hear. They will be judged by all they hear, their secret thoughts will be brought into the open, and they will bow down and worship God, confessing, "Truly God is here among you!"
1 Corinthians 14:24-25 GNT

3. APPLICATION

We believe church should be a place where people learn how the Bible applies to their daily lives.

Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.
Ephesians 4:11-12 NLT

4. SALVATION

We believe church can be a place where people can find Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

For "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?
Romans 10:13-14 NLT





NEXT STEP



1

GROW COURSE STEP TWO

If you have completed Step One of the Grow Course and would like to know more about Lifehouse Church we invite you to continue to Step Two.

2

KNOW MORE ABOUT JESUS

If you want to know more about Jesus, get assistance by going to the Next Steps Corner located at church.

3

CONNECT GROUP

Find a Connect Group that suits you. Contact the leader and arrange to check it out in person.

Browse our online Connect Group directory at:
mylifehouse.com/connectgroup





STEP TWO

CONNECT

WITH PEOPLE

God created us to live in community with others, and it's only then that we can experience the full life God intends for us. We believe that life change and growth happens in the context of relationships. Lifehouse Connect Groups are a place where we can connect with God and with people, which gives us the opportunity to build long-lasting relationships.

We pray that the Lord will make your love grow. We pray that he will give you more and more love for each other and for all people. We pray that you will love everyone in the same way we love you. This will strengthen your desire to do what is right, and you will be holy and without fault before our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy people.

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 ERV



CONNECT GROUPS

We base our Connect Group model on the example of the early church as described in the Bible. These smaller meetings helped lay the foundation for the growth in the first church in Jerusalem.

And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.
Acts 5:42 NKJV



**God created us for community.
Connect Groups provide a fun place for
you to connect with others...**



CONNECT GROUP GOALS

The purpose of Connect Group is simple: to bring people together in a friendly environment where they can grow together and have fun in the process.

A **FUN** place to connect with people

We were not made to do life alone; God created us for community. Connect Groups provide a fun place for you to connect with others, share life, and grow in faith together.

A place to **GROW** together

We believe every person is created with God-given potential to make a difference in the world. Connect Group is a place you can grow with others to become more like Jesus and reach the potential God has put inside you.

A **FRIENDLY** place to meet

When we do life together, our problems become smaller as God uses others to bring support and encouragement to our lives. Connect Groups become a place where others don't just know your name but care about what is happening in your life and want to support you in your spiritual journey.



THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT LIFEHOUSE CONNECT GROUPS:

1. There are three semesters every year.

Life flows in seasons, and we want to make it easy for you to be in the right Connect Group for you in each season. This is why we have new groups that start and stop three times a year in what we refer to as “semesters.”

Winter-Spring (13 weeks)	Summer (8 weeks)	Fall (13 weeks)
JAN ▷ FEB ▷ MAR ▷ APR	JUN ▷ JUL	SEP ▷ OCT ▷ NOV ▷ DEC

2. Everyone can discover a group that is a good fit.

Our hope is for every person at Lifehouse to be involved in a meaningful way in the life of the church through a Connect Group. With many groups to choose from, we are confident that there is a group that is a great fit for you. You can search for groups by demographic, location, day, and time in our online Connect Groups directory at: mylifehouse.com/connectgroup Once you find a few groups that interest you, contact the leaders to learn more and make plans to check them out in person.

3. Anyone can aspire to lead a group.

We believe leading or facilitating a group is simple because we all have something to offer others. Whether it's something you are passionate about, an experience you've had that can help others, or an area in which you are looking to grow, leading or facilitating a group is a great way to bring people together in meaningful community.

To learn more about becoming a Connect Group leader, complete the Grow Course and attend the Connect Group leaders' training the next time it's offered. Even if you're not sure you're ready to lead a group, we invite you to come and learn.

4. There are two types of Connect Groups:

Bible Focus groups & Community Focus groups. These groups fall into several demographics of guys, girls, families, students, and workers.



BIBLE FOCUS CONNECT GROUPS

The focus of these groups is the Bible. We want people to enjoy their time together around:

a) Studying the Word of God: This is a time when we use study tools to focus on the bible together.

But Jesus answered, "The scripture says, 'Human beings cannot live on bread alone, but need every word that God speaks.'"

Matthew 4:4 GNT

b) Journalling: Read a small part of the scriptures daily and write down what God is saying to you personally. Share a key thought from your journal with the group and how you can apply it to your own life.

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

2 Timothy 3:16 NLT

c) Simple prayer: This is a time to pray with each other while keeping it simple.

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

Acts 2:42 NLT

"When you pray, do not use a lot of meaningless words, as the pagans do, who think that their gods will hear them because their prayers are long.

Matthew 6:7 GNT

d) Keeping a clean heart (Forgiveness): Forgiving one another helps us keep in good standing with God and people. The fruit of forgiveness is healthy relationships and a satisfying life.

Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends (hurts) you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

Colossians 3:13 NLT

e) Keeping our lives pure: Purity is a lifestyle! Whether we are single or married, we are called to live pure lives.



God's will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin. Then each of you will control his own body and live in holiness and honor—not in lustful passion like the pagans who do not know God and his ways.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 NLT

"Haven't you read the Scriptures?" Jesus replied. "They record that from the beginning 'God made them male and female.'" And he said, "This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.' Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together."

Matthew 19:4-6 NLT

COMMUNITY FOCUS CONNECT GROUPS

The focus of these groups is community. We want people to enjoy their time together around:

- a) Reaching out to the community both inside and outside the church.

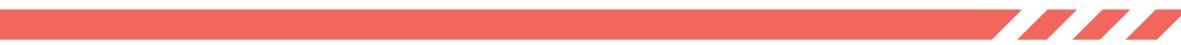
- b) A shared interest that you enjoy and is important to you. Essentially, the things you are already doing in your life are the things that can be the basis for your Community Connect Group! From sports groups and lunch groups to parenting groups, student groups and creative arts groups, Community Focus Connect Groups are as varied as we are. Community Connect Group leaders administrate and facilitate the group weekly, and share their passion, skills, and know-how with the group.

- c) Life-giving scripture and prayer. Connect Group leaders love sharing one life-giving scripture and one short prayer with the community they serve. The scripture and prayer is relevant to the activity and demographic of the group.





NEXT STEP



1

GROW COURSE STEP THREE

If you like the values and vision of Lifehouse Church as outlined in Step Two of the Grow Course, please continue to Step Three.

2

CONNECT GROUP

Find a Connect Group that suits you. Contact the leader and arrange to check it out in person.

Browse our online Connect Group directory at:
mylifehouse.com/connectgroup

3

NEXT STEPS CORNER

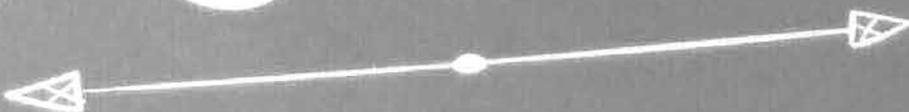
Get assistance by going to the Next Steps Corner located at church.





WELCOME

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STEP THREE

CONNECT WITH CHURCH

The Apostle Peter had a revelation about Jesus: “He is the Son of the living God.” Jesus is committed to building his church on this revelation. In fact, the church is the only thing God is building on the earth. This is why it’s so exciting for us to be part of the local church.

Then he asked them, “But who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “ You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means ‘rock’), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.

Matthew 16:15-18 NLT

Jesus loves the church like a husband loves his bride and would give his life for her.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

Ephesians 5:25-27 NIV



The role of the church is to use the gifts Christ has given it, and to prepare people for works of service to build up the church so that we all reach unity, knowledge of God, and maturity, and will not be tricked by wrong teaching.

Now these are the gifts Christ gave the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelist, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.

Ephesians 4:11-15 NLT

OUR CHURCH VISION

At Lifehouse Church our vision is two-fold:

Firstly, to share the good news of Jesus with people who have not yet heard. Secondly, to equip believers to make a difference.

Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20 NLT

How We Reach The Lost:

Through Church/Sunday Services

Through Connect Groups

How We Make A Difference:

Through Finding Our Purpose

Through Finding Where We Can Make A Difference





**...Therefore, go and make disciples
of all the nations, baptizing them
in the name of the Father and the
Son and the Holy Spirit.**

Matthew 28:19 NLT



OUR OUTREACH

As we continue to reach people who are far from God, each one of us can do our part. As a church however, we have the great privilege of corporately focusing our efforts on reaching people in three key places designated by Jesus.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:8 NIV

1. “Jerusalem”: Our cities.

The primary way we reach our cities is through the local church where we provide relevant Sunday services, Connect Groups, and various outreach activities.

2. “In Judea and Samaria”: Our nation.

The primary way we reach our nation is by starting new churches and strengthening existing ones.

3. “To the ends of the earth”: Our world.

The main way we reach our world is through missions. At Lifehouse, we intentionally invest a portion of our resources in mission work around the world with a focus on unreached people groups, children, and church planting.





**...you will be my witnesses
in Jerusalem, and in all Judea
and Samaria, and to the
ends of the earth.**

Acts 1:8 NIV



OUR CHURCH STRUCTURE

As you consider investing your heart, family, time, and finances into the life of a church, it is important for you to feel confident in its oversight. Our goal in sharing Lifehouse Church Oversight is so that you will understand that our church is structured to support the values of integrity, accountability, and spiritual authority.

OUR CHURCH OVERSIGHT IS MADE UP OF FOUR GROUPS:

1. Guided by Australian Christian Churches (ACC).

Lifehouse Church belongs to and is guided by a denomination called Australian Christian Churches (ACC). All of our pastors, in Japan and abroad, are credentialed by the ACC. ACC provides oversight, and they have the authority to remove a pastor from his or her position in the rare case of moral misconduct.

2. Developed by Pastors.

Our Pastoral Staff team is led by Pastor Rod and Viv. This team oversees the day-to-day ministry and operations of the church they are serving. They serve the congregation by developing the spiritual life of the church.

3. Protected by Trustees (Finance Board).

We can have up to 7 trustees who are members of the congregation appointed yearly by the Senior Pastors and eldership. Their responsibility is to oversee the finances and direct the provision of the facilities needed by the church. They provide counsel to the Senior Pastor and eldership regarding the major financial commitments of the church. They serve the church as



non-staff. Further, to enable good financial accounting we consult an international auditor once a year, and also conduct a voluntary monthly check with locally-based accountants.

4. Strengthened by our Eldership.

We can have up to 5 elders who are selected members of Lifehouse Church or pastors from respected congregations or ministries who love Lifehouse Church and are willing to provide spiritual protection to the church. They may be called upon to help in accountability matters relating to pastoral staff, staff, and other church matters.

OUR KINGDOM FRIENDSHIPS

At Lifehouse Church we believe that life is better if we do life with Kingdom Friendships. We have the privilege of being part of some very inspiring Kingdom Friendships.

1. Hillsong Network.

Hillsong Church provides this Network to churches like Lifehouse, which benefit from their invaluable resources, particularly those related to Hillsong conference.

2. Association of Related Churches (ARC).

ARC is a church-planting organization that started with two church plants, one of which is Church of the Highlands. ARC trains, coaches and resources hundreds of new church plants across America and abroad every year.

OUR FINANCES

“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, “I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!”

Malachi 3:10 NLT

At Lifehouse Church we support Christ’s body, the church, through the practice of tithing. We recognize that the biblical standard of giving 10% of our income is a principle God wants to bless. Giving is one of the central themes of the Bible, and Jesus talks more about this subject than prayer or heaven or hell.

In accordance with the examples in the Bible, there are three ways we can give at Lifehouse Church.





If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously.
Romans 12:8 NLT



1. Tithe

Tithing is giving the first 10% of our income to the local church. This is the primary way we acknowledge that God is first in our lives.

Honor the Lord with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.

Proverbs 3:9-10 NKJV

2. Offerings

An offering is giving over and above what we tithe. The Bible teaches that we are truly living when we give generously.

Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.

1 Timothy 6:18-19 NLT

3. The Gift of Giving

The gift of giving is a Spiritual gift given to some people who desire to serve God by giving of their God given material resources, far beyond their tithe, to further God's work.

If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

Romans 12:8 NLT



Many people love to give to God financially and want to have confidence in the organization through which they give. At Lifehouse Church, we want people to understand that they are giving to God through the church, not to the church. Therefore, we want people to feel free to focus on what God is calling them to give and trust that God is leading our church to steward all finance well through transparent and honest financial practices.

We believe that the giving of tithes and offerings is an act of worship to God and an expression of the relationship between the giver and the Lord. That is why we will not have people fill out financial commitment cards, or make faith promises. Giving is not a business transaction, but an expression of gratitude toward God.



HOW YOU CAN JOIN US:

Anyone can attend Lifehouse Church but if you would like to join us, we request you complete all four steps of the Grow Course and:

PRAY

The harvest is ready so let's pray for people to be available harvesters who share Jesus with people.

So he said to his disciples, "The harvest is large, but there are few workers to gather it in. Pray to the owner of the harvest that he will send out workers to gather in his harvest."

Matthew 9:37-38 GNB

RESOURCE

Give your time and resources to reach people with the good news of Jesus.

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and rust destroys and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moths nor rust destroy and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:19-21 NKJV

GO

Go into our cities, nation, and world to serve people and show them the love of God.

Then I heard the Lord's voice, saying, "Who can I send? Who will go for us?" So I said, "Here I am. Send me!"

Isaiah 6:8 ERV



NEXT STEP

1

GROW COURSE STEP FOUR

If you have completed Step Three of the Grow Course and like the vision and values of Lifehouse Church please continue to Step Four.

2

GIFTS & PERSONALITY ASSESSMENT

To discover your personality type and motivational gifts follow the links in Step Four.

3

NEXT STEPS CORNER

Get assistance by going to the Next Steps Corner located at church.





STEP FOUR

CONNECT

WITH PURPOSE

All of us were created by God to make a difference in the world around us. God has a place for you where your unique abilities and passions can impact the lives of others. We believe your life will never make sense until you: find, develop, and fulfill your purpose.

God has made us what we are. In Christ Jesus, God made us new people so that we would spend our lives doing the good things he had already planned for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10 ERV



DESIGN REVEALS DESTINY

Knowing God, the designer, helps reveal our destiny. As we discover our place in the body of Christ, God prepares us to make a difference in the lives of people.

GIFTS

1. The Holy Spirit

The greatest gift God can give us is the gift of the Holy Spirit.

And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago.
Ephesians 1:13 NLT

2. The Holy Spirit Produces Good Fruit

God's Spirit works in us to produce good fruit, and to use the gifts well.

But the fruit that the Spirit produces in a person's life is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
Galatians 5:22-23a ERV

3. Use God's Gifts Well

Whatever your gifts are, use them well to build and serve the body of Christ.

"God has given each of you gifts from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."
1 Peter 4:10 NLT



**God prepares us to
make a difference in
the lives of people.**



DISCOVER MY PERSONALITY

To do your personality assessment, click the “Discover My Personality” link under the video.

While completing the test, make sure to:

- a) Be honest

- b) Be quick

DISCOVER MY MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS

To do your motivational gifts assessment, click the “Discover My Motivational Gifts” link under the video.

While doing the test, make sure to:

- a) Be honest

- b) Be quick

Now that you have identified your primary motivational gifts, we want to help you use those gifts to live out God’s purpose for your life.

Following is a short description for each of the seven motivational gifts, supporting scriptures, and how your gifts can fit in the context of the church.

Make note of your test results for later use on the Serving Application.

You will discover that you have a combination of two or three motivational gifts that makes you uniquely you. This is shown by the top two or three percentages in your profile results.

THE GIFT DESCRIPTION

The Prophetic Gift

People with the prophetic gift have an intense desire to see justice applied to all parts of life. They are motivated by a cause and will go to great lengths to help others see the need for action, even if they appear insensitive.

In the context of the church, this gift is the divine strength and ability to boldly speak and bring clarity to scripture and doctrinal truth, in some cases foretelling God’s plan.

Romans 12:6; Acts 2:37-40, 7:51-53, 26:24-29; 1 Corinthians 14:1-4; 1

Thessalonians 1:5

(All Teams)



**“ we want to help you use
those gifts to live out God’s
purpose for your life. ”**

The Serving Gift

Servers are problem solvers. They are excellent at identifying and completing tasks. People with the gift of serving make things happen and keep things rolling under their watchful eye. Occasionally, in their enthusiasm to get things done they can lose sight of the bigger picture or the people they are doing it for.

In the context of the church, serving is the divine strength or ability to do small or large tasks well, working for the overall good of the body of Christ.

Romans 12:7; Acts 6:1-7; Galatians 6:10; 1 Timothy 1:16-18; Titus 3:14

(All Teams)

The Teaching Gift

Teachers are motivated to help people learn and grow by presenting complex truths simply. They are gifted public speakers and motivators. At times, they can appear argumentative when they are attempting to get their point across.

In the context of the church, this gift is the divine strength or ability to study and learn from the scriptures primarily to bring understanding and growth to other believers.

Romans 8:12; Acts 18:24-28, 20:20-21; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11-14

(Bible Connect Group, Alpha, Next Steps, Kids, Production & Operations Team Leaders)

The Encouragement Gift

Encouragers have an ability to bring the best out of people. Their greatest desire is to see people improve and succeed. They are often able to bring new hope to people who are at a low ebb. They are outgoing and have a large network of friends. Encouragers tend to be quick to offer people opportunity, but this needs to be accompanied with practical steps.



In the context of the church, this gift is the divine strength or ability to encourage others through the written or spoken word and biblical truth.

Romans 12:8; Acts 14:22; 1 Timothy 4:13; Hebrews 10:24-25

(Welcome, Next Steps, Kids, Connect Group Leadership, Outreach)

The Giving Gift

Givers are motivated to be generous by creating or giving to organizations that help those in need. Givers can also excel in areas of design and the sciences. In some Givers, the entrepreneurial gift is able to help them set up organizations that can benefit many people.

In the context of the church, this gift is the divine strength or ability to produce wealth and give by tithes and offerings for the purpose of advancing the Kingdom of God on earth.

Romans 12:8; Mark 12:41-44; 2 Corinthians 8:1-7, 9:2-7

(All Teams)

The Leadership Gift

Leaders are “big picture” people. They tend to look ahead for possible obstacles. Leaders are structural thinkers and set up systems for others to follow. They are able to motivate people toward common goals. They are assertive, protective, and can appear bossy.

In the context of the church, this gift is the divine strength and ability to influence people at their level while directing and focusing them on the big picture, vision, or idea.

Romans 12:8; 1 Timothy 3:1-13, 5:17; Hebrews 13:7

(All Teams)

The Mercy Gift

People with the gift of Mercy are greatly concerned for the emotional, spiritual, and physical needs of others. They have a strong desire and ability to help people who are suffering or distressed. Because people with this gift are so patient and compassionate with those in pain, they will benefit from setting clear boundaries so as to prevent them from burnout.

In the context of the church, this gift is the divine strength or ability to feel empathy and care for those who are hurting in any way.

Romans 12:8; Matthew 9:35-36; Mark 9:41; 1 Thessalonians 5:14

(Welcome, Next Steps, Outreach, Community Connects – teams that serve the community)



DEVELOP MY GIFTS

One way to develop my gifts is to develop my leadership. Sometimes, however, there are things that can stand in the way.

What stands in the way?

- a) "Who am I?" = Insecurity
- b) "What if they?" = Fear
- c) "I have never..." = Inadequacy
- d) "Use someone else" = Reluctance

QUALITIES OF A LEADER:

1. We love **GOD**

- a) Develop your closeness with God.
- b) Develop your character.
- c) Develop your calling.

2. We love **PEOPLE**

- a) Be a servant.
- b) Be a team player.
- c) Be real.

3. We pursue **EXCELLENCE**

- a) Do things well.
- b) Do them before you're asked.
- c) Do more than is expected.

4. We choose **JOY**

- a) Be enjoyable.
- b) Be positive.
- c) Be loyal.



USE MY GIFTS

My passion

“But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.”

Acts 20:24 NLT

My life experience

So I beg you, brothers and sisters, because of the great mercy God has shown us, offer your lives as a living sacrifice to him—an offering that is only for God and pleasing to him.

Romans 12:1 ERV

My pain

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 NIV

My purpose is to make a difference—to serve God by serving others

Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelist, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won’t be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

Ephesians 4:11-16 NLT



AS A FOLLOWER OF JESUS, I MAKE A DIFFERENCE WHEN I:

1. Connect with new people.

People matter to God, so they matter to us.

Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.

Romans 15:7 NKJV

2. Build relationships with the team.

Life change happens and leaders are developed when we take a step towards intentional relationships.

In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

Philippians 1:4-5 NIV

3. Empower others.

We are people of purpose, working together on purpose.

He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.

Colossians 1:28 NIV

4. Take time to celebrate the wins.

There is nothing more powerful than a life changed by Christ.

"In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Luke 15:10 NIV

LIFEHOUSE VALUES

1. I will protect the unity of my church by:

- + Acting in love towards other members.
- + Refusing to gossip.
- + Being responsive to leaders and praying for them.

So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.

Romans 14:19 NLT

Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

Ephesians 4:29 NLT



Be responsive to your pastoral leaders. Listen to their counsel. They are alert to the condition of your lives and work under the strict supervision of God. Contribute to the joy of their leadership, not its drudgery. Why would you want to make things harder for them? Pray for us. We have no doubt about what we are doing or why, but it's hard going and we need your prayers.

Hebrews 13:17-18 MSG

2. I will share the responsibility of my church by:

- + Praying for its growth and health.
- + Inviting the unchurched to attend.
- + Warmly welcoming those who visit.

From Paul, Silas, and Timothy—To the people of the church in Thessalonica, who belong to God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be yours. We always thank God for you all and always mention you in our prayers.

1 Thessalonians 1:1-2 GNT

"Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full.'"

Luke 14:23 NIV

Welcome and receive [to your hearts] one another, then, even as Christ has welcomed and received you, for the glory of God.

Romans 16:7 AMPC

3. I will support the testimony of my church by:

- + Attending church faithfully.
- + Living a Godly life.
- + Giving regularly.

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

Acts 2:42 NLT

Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more, since you see that the Day of the Lord is coming near.

Hebrews 10:25 GNT





Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing together with one spirit and one purpose, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News.

Philippians 1:27 NLT

The whole group of believers was united in their thinking and in what they wanted. None of them said that the things they had were their own. Instead, they shared everything.

Acts 4:32 ERV

4. I will serve the ministry of my church by:

- + Discovering my gifts and talents.
- + Using my God-given gifts to make a difference in the lives of others.
- + Developing a servant heart.

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

Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-12 NLT

Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

Philippians 2:4-5 NLT



NEXT STEP



Congratulations! You have completed the Grow Course!

If you agree with all the Lifehouse values, we would like to invite you to consider serving on the Dream Team.

If you would like to serve on the Dream Team:

1

ASSISTANCE

Go to the Next Steps Corner located in the church to get assistance.

2

APPLICATION

Fill out the Serving Application on line, browse the Dream Team directory, select the team you want to join, and submit your application.

3

CONNECTION

When your application is approved you will receive an approval email and a link where you can personally connect with a Dream Team leader.

4

SERVE

Confirm your approved application by showing the approval email to the Dream Team leader. Begin serving on the Dream Team to be trained and equipped to fulfill your purpose and make a difference in the lives of others.



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Lifehouse is a bilingual, international church where many come to encounter God and forge life-giving friendships. The name "Lifehouse" itself reflects our desire to build a fun and exciting community where people can freely come and experience God's amazing love.

Lifehouse started in Tokyo, Japan in 2002 with 16 people. We now have multiple services and campuses all across Japan and in other parts of the Asia-Pacific Region. If this is your first time in church, you are very welcome to join us and enjoy this warm and friendly community.

lifehouse

INTERNATIONAL CHURCH

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