



# GROW COURSE



LIFEHOUSE







The logo features a red circular icon with a stylized arrow pointing up and to the right, enclosed within a square frame. To the right of this icon, the words "GROW" and "COURSE" are stacked vertically in a bold, red, sans-serif font.

# GROW COURSE

*lifehouse*

INTERNATIONAL CHURCH

    | [mylifehouse.com](http://mylifehouse.com)



# OUR STORY



Many years ago, 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 power. We knew that if people found faith in Jesus, they would also find purpose for their lives. Working with an initial team of ten young Australians and two Japanese, our desire to plant a church became a reality when Lifehouse Church was launched in mid-2002. Thirty people joined our first service in central Tokyo.

From the start, our focus was to reach the lost through friendships, life-giving Sunday services, and Connect Groups. Our 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 over the next four years, the church grew to an average of 500 people attending weekly services. In its sixth year, Lifehouse Church planted Lifehouse Osaka as the first of many church plants in Japan and throughout the world, primarily in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Today, Lifehouse Church is collectively in the thousands. We 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

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*"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 in your journey to connect with God, connect with people, connect with church, and connect with purpose. 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

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*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

<b>1</b>	<b>STEP ONE: CONNECT WITH GOD .....9</b> <i>Discover the spiritual journey that God has for you.</i> Who Is Jesus.....10 Life With Jesus .....12 Sunday Services .....13
<b>2</b>	<b>STEP TWO: CONNECT WITH PEOPLE .....17</b> <i>Discover the many friendships and relationships that God has for you.</i> Connect Groups.....18 Things to Know About Lifehouse Connect Groups .....19 Bible Connect Groups .....20 Community Connect Groups .....21
<b>3</b>	<b>STEP THREE: CONNECT WITH CHURCH .....25</b> <i>Explore the ministry of Lifehouse Church and find how to connect with us.</i> Our Church Vision.....26 Our Church Structure.....28 How You Can Join Us.....32
<b>4</b>	<b>STEP FOUR: CONNECT WITH PURPOSE .....35</b> <i>Discover your personality type and motivational gifts and how they reveal your purpose. Explore how you can make a difference by serving others.</i> Design Reveals Destiny .....36 Your Motivational Gifts Assessment Results .....38 Develop My Gifts.....40 Lifehouse Values .....42 Next Steps .....45





## STEP ONE

# CONNECT WITH GOD

**We consider knowing God and reaching new people our greatest priority. Therefore, our Sunday services are designed to help people connect with God—especially those who don't yet know Him.**

*"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—our Creator. God wants to have a relationship with us 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 created us with a special feature: "to be like Him" and to discover the special plan He has for our lives. However, sin has the power to separate us from God and all the good plans He has 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 Jesus and His glorious resurrection have the power 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 us into a life that 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—it means the start of a new chapter. You can tell your story about finding Jesus in your own special style. Because we believe your journey of faith will speak to others, we encourage you to:

### **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 way?

### **Build Personal RELATIONSHIPS.**

Invite people into your world. People want to know that you are real and that your friendship is genuine.

### **Share Your Personal STORY.**

Your story is significant, so why not learn to tell it in a short but compelling way?

### **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 invite your friends 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 to apply the Bible 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 should 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

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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, please visit:  
[mylifehouse.com/jesus](http://mylifehouse.com/jesus)

3

## CONNECT GROUP

Find a Connect Group that's perfect for you. Contact the leader for more details and arrange to check it out.

Browse our online Connect Group directory at:  
[mylifehouse.com/connectgroup](http://mylifehouse.com/connectgroup)







## STEP TWO

# CONNECT WITH PEOPLE

God created us to live in community with others, and that's where 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 people—giving 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

Our Connect Group model is based on the example of the early church as described in the Bible. These smaller meetings helped lay the foundation for the growth of 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.**

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. It's a place where others don't just know your name but care about what's happening in your life and want to support you in your spiritual journey.

### **A Safe Place to GROW.**

When we do life together, our problems become smaller as God uses others to bring support and encouragement to our lives. Connect Group is a safe place where you can grow, become more like Jesus, and reach the potential God has put inside you.



## 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 each season of your life. This is why our groups start and stop three times a year in what we refer to as “semesters.”

Winter-Spring	Summer	Fall
FEB ▷ MAR ▷ APR	JUN ▷ JUL	SEP ▷ OCT ▷ NOV

### 2. There is a Group For You.

Our hope is for every person at Lifehouse to be involved 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 gender, language, life stage, location, day, and time in our online Connect Groups directory at: [mylifehouse.com/connectgroup](http://mylifehouse.com/connectgroup)

When you find a group that interests you, make a plan to check it out by contacting the leader to learn more. You can check out more than one group to find the one that’s right for you.

### 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.

We have Bible Connect Groups and Community Connect Groups. We have groups for guys, girls, families, students, workers, and more.

## BIBLE CONNECT GROUPS

The focus of these groups is the Bible—and the simple but powerful values we glean from it. We want people to commit to these biblical values and enjoy their time together around:

a) Studying the Word of God: This is a time when we use study tools to learn from the Bible together. Download the free Lifehouse International Church app from the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#) to access our Blue Book Bible studies. Download the [YouVersion app](#) to find easy-to-read Bible translations in your language.

*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: A daily practice where you read a small part of the Bible and write down what God is saying to you personally. We encourage you to 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: Keeping a clean heart means choosing to forgive, and forgiving one another keeps us 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 CONNECT GROUPS

The focus of these groups is community. Here, people enjoy their time together around these shared interests:

- 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 a Community Connect Group. Groups might center around sports, lunch, parenting, students, creative arts, or other hobbies and passions. These groups are as varied as we are. Those who lead these groups commit to sharing their passion, skills, and know-how with the group, while also reaching out to the community and having a lot of fun together.
- c) Life-giving Scripture and prayer. Because Community Connect Groups are reaching out to a broader community, leaders are excited to share one short life-giving Scripture and one short prayer with the community they serve. The Scripture and prayer should be short, but can be made relevant to the activity and/or the needs of the group's demographic.





# NEXT STEP

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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's perfect for you. Contact the leader and arrange to check it out.

Browse our online Connect Group directory at:

[mylifehouse.com/connectgroup](http://mylifehouse.com/connectgroup)



3

## NEXT STEPS

Get assistance by going to Next Steps or [mylifehouse.com/nextsteps](http://mylifehouse.com/nextsteps)





WELCOME

Home





## 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 to prepare people for works of service and build up the church so that we all reach unity, knowledge of God, and maturity, and so we won't be tricked by wrong teaching.**

*Now these are the gifts Christ gave 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. 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. And second, 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 Unchurched:**

Through church and Sunday services  
Through Connect Groups

### **How We Make a Difference:**

Through finding our purpose  
Through discovering our gifts and potential on the Dream Team





**...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. But as a church, we have the great privilege of coming together to focus our efforts on reaching people in three key places, designated by Jesus in this verse from Acts:

*"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.

We reach our cities through the local church, where we provide relevant Sunday services, Connect Groups, and outreach activities.

### 2. "In Judea and Samaria": Our Nation.

We reach our nation by starting new churches and online communities and strengthening existing ones.

### 3. "To the Ends Of The Earth": Our World.

We reach our world through missions and online services. 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 the church, it is important for you to feel confident in its oversight. Here we share how Lifehouse Church Oversight works, so 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 and Staff teams are led by Pastor Rod and Viv. These teams oversee 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. Strengthened by Our Eldership.**

The Elders are up to seven selected members or pastors of Lifehouse Church and 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.



#### **4. Protected by Our Finance Committee.**

Our committee can be up to seven 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 staff or 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.

## **OUR KINGDOM FRIENDSHIPS**

At Lifehouse Church we believe that life is best done with Kingdom Friendships. We have the privilege of being part of some very inspiring Kingdom Friendships, both in Japan and abroad.

The Association of Related Churches (ARC) is a church-planting network that started with two church plants, one of which is Church of the Highlands. Through our relationship with ARC we have been able to build many friendships with many amazing churches. We are grateful in particular to Church of the Highlands for their great model and friendship. ARC also trains, coaches, and resources hundreds of new church plants every year across America and abroad.

## **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 measure of tithing is giving 10% of our income into God’s house, and that God will always abundantly bless the giver who practises this principle. 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 you 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.

*When the people of Israel heard these requirements, they responded generously by bringing the first share of their grain, new wine, olive oil, honey, and all the produce of their fields. They brought a large quantity—a tithe of all they produced.*

2 Chronicles 31:5 NLT

### 2. Offerings

An offering is giving over and above what we tithe. If we see a need, let's fill it!

*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

People with the gift of giving desire to serve God by giving out of their God-given material resources to further God's work in a measure that's beyond their tithe. They feel they are truly living when they give generously.

*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. 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 money to resource what God is doing in the life of the church—to reach people with the good news of Jesus.

*"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth 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

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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

Get assistance by going to Next Steps or [mylifehouse.com/nextsteps](http://mylifehouse.com/nextsteps)





## STEP FOUR

# CONNECT

# WITH PURPOSE

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You were created by God to make a difference in the world around you. 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 people's lives.

## 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 our 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  
people's lives.**



## DISCOVER MY PERSONALITY

To complete your personality assessment, click the “Discover My Personality” link on the Step Four web page.

While completing the assessment, make sure to:

- a) Be honest –The assessment is not about who you want to be, but who you truly are
- b) Be quick –The first answer that comes to mind is usually the most honest answer

## DISCOVER MY MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS

To complete your motivational gifts assessment, click the “Discover My Motivational Gifts” link on the Step Four web page.

While doing the assessment, make sure to:

- a) Be honest—The assessment is not about who you want to be, but who you truly are
- b) Be quick—The first answer that comes to mind is usually the most honest answer

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

In the following section, you can find a short description for each of the seven motivational gifts with supporting Scriptures and suggestions of how your gifts can fit into the context of the church.

Make note of your assessment results so you can use them for the Dream Team 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.

# YOUR MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS ASSESSMENT 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*

**This gift is great for:** All Dream Teams

**“ We want to help you use  
your 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*

**This gift is great for:** All Dream 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*

**This gift is great for:** Bible Connect Group, Alpha, Next Steps, Kids, Production & Operations Team Leaders

### **The Encouragement Gift**

Encouragers have an ability to bring out the best in people. Their greatest desire is to see people improve and succeed. They are often able to bring new hope to people who are discouraged. They are outgoing and have a large network of friends. Encouragers tend to be quick to offer people opportunities, 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*

**This gift is great for:** Welcome, Next Steps, Kids, Connect Group Leaders, 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. For 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*

**This gift is great for:** All Dream 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 sometimes 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*

**This gift is great for:** All Dream 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 to prevent themselves from burning out.

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

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

**This gift is great for:** Welcome, Next Steps, Outreach, Community Connect Groups—teams that serve the community

# DEVELOP MY GIFTS

One way to develop your gifts is to develop your leadership. Sometimes, however, there are things that can stand in the way. These things can be overcome through prayer and healing.

## What Stands in the Way?

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

## QUALITIES OF A GIFTED LEADER:

### 1. You Love **GOD**

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

### 2. You Love **PEOPLE**

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



### 3. You Pursue **EXCELLENCE**

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

### 4. You Choose **JOY**

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

## USING 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: To Serve God by Serving Others

*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 4:16 NLT



## 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.

Lives are changed 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.*

*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.
- + Tithing.

*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





*"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

#### **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

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*Congratulations!* You have completed the Grow Course!

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

If you would like to serve on the Dream Team or become a future leader:

1

## APPLY

Fill out the Dream Team Application online. Browse the Dream Team directory, select the team you'd like to join, and submit your application.

2

## CONNECT

After you've submitted your application, you'll receive an email from one of our team leaders with further instructions.

3

## SERVE

Once your application has been confirmed, you'll be introduced to a Dream Team leader. The Dream Team leader will introduce you to other team members, guidelines, procedures, and training to enable you to serve on the team.

4

## ASSISTANCE

If you require any further assistance, please go to Next Steps or [mylifehouse.com/nextsteps](http://mylifehouse.com/nextsteps).

For more information, download the Lifehouse International Church App, free from the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#).

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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 throughout the world, primarily in the Asia-Pacific Region. If this is your first time at church, you are very welcome to join us and enjoy this warm and friendly community.



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