

GrowTrack Step Two

“Belong”

Today we will cover:

- *The History of Victory Church*
- *How to Share Christ with Others*
- *How to join a Small Group, Become a Member, and Join a Dream Team*

Your spiritual journey consists of four steps:

Step ONE: _____

Step ONE happens the first Sunday of every month.

“[I pray]... that you may know Him better [personally].” - *Ephesians 1:17–18*

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you.’” - *Matthew 7:21–23*

Step TWO: _____

Step TWO happens the second Sunday of every month.

“[I pray]... that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened [focused and clear].”

- *Ephesians 1:17–18*

“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.” - *James 5:16*

Step THREE: _____

Step THREE happens the third Sunday of every month.

“[I pray]... that you may know the hope to which He has called you.”

- *Ephesians 1:17–18*

“We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.” - *Romans 12:6*

“All of you together are Christ’s body, and each of you is a part of it.”

- *1 Corinthians 12:27 NLT*

Step FOUR: _____

Step FOUR happens the fourth Sunday of every month.

“[I pray]... that you may grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life He has for His followers [in His Holy people].” - *Ephesians 1:17–18*

“This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.” - *John 15:8, 11*

“God has given gifts to each of you from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.” - *1 Peter 4:10 NLT*

OUR HISTORY

March 1989 - Held first service at Southeastern Chapel with 800 people.

June 1989 - Voted Blackburns in as Senior Pastor.

February 1990 - Began construction on Family Life Center.

June 1990 - Initiated first mission trip to Tela, Honduras.

October 1990 - Held first service in new Family Life Center.

August 1993 - Began Kids Club Sidewalk ministry, reaching inner city kids.

October 1993 - Opened new Family Life Center classroom wing.

September 1994 - Launched Kidz Life preschool.

October 1995 - Burned mortgage on Family Life Center.

November 1996 - Acquired another 23 acres of adjacent land on west side.

March 1997 - Occupied new Family Life Center early childhood wing.

August 1997 - Launched Victory Christian Academy, beginning with Kindergarten.

February 1998 - Began construction of new sanctuary.

June 1998 - Began Circle J Camps for inner city kids at Cheyenne Territory.

October 1999 - Occupied new sanctuary, with approximately 3,000 in attendance.

March 2003 - Dedicated newly constructed Light of Lights Chapel.

March 2006 - Opened South Campus in the Cobb Theatres at Lakeside Village.

August 2006 - Opened Victory Christian Academy High School.

June 2011 - Started Dream Center ministry, reaching Lakeland's inner city.

September 2014 - Began Small Groups.

March 2019 - Celebrated 30 year anniversary of Victory Church.

ONE CHURCH IN TWO LOCATIONS

NORTH CAMPUS



1401 Griffin Road
Lakeland, FL 33810

Sundays: 9 & 10:45 AM
Wednesdays: 6:30 PM

SOUTH CAMPUS



Meeting at Cobb Theatre at Lakeside Village
1650 Town Center Drive
Lakeland, FL 33803

Sundays: 9:30 & 11 AM

All services, for all ages are streamed live online at victorylakeland.org/live.

Step TWO - Belong

HOW WE ORGANIZE OUR WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Reaching people who don't know God personally is the only thing we won't be able to do in Heaven, so it is our greatest mission while we are on Earth. Our Sunday services are for people at all stages in their spiritual journey, but we prioritize giving people who do not have a genuine relationship with God the opportunity to respond to Him.

Our Sunday services focus on four values:

1. _____

We believe church should be enjoyable.

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

2. _____

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

"But...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. _____

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

"So Christ Himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up." - *Ephesians 4:11-12*

4. _____

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

"'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*

HOW YOU CAN SHARE CHRIST WITH OTHERS

One of our primary purposes is to reach people far from God.

Every one of us can do our part by following these four principles:

1. Accept the personal _____ .
2. Build a personal _____ .
3. Give a personal _____ .
4. Give a personal _____ .

We share Christ in our city, our nation, and our world.

Jesus gave His Church a mandate to reach the world in three areas:

“You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” - *Acts 1:8*

1. “In Jerusalem” - _____

“Real religion, the kind that passes muster before God the Father, is this: reach out to the homeless and loveless in their plight.” - *James 1:27 MSG*

The primary way we reach our immediate community is through our Sunday and Wednesday services, special outreach opportunities such as the Dream Center, and through personally sharing the good news about Jesus in the places we live, work, study, shop and play.

Learn more about the Dream Center of Lakeland at dreamcenterlakeland.org.

2. “In Judea and Samaria” - _____

“Whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so that he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him.” - *1 Corinthians 9:22 TLB*

The primary way we reach our nation is by starting new churches, strengthening existing churches, and supporting strategic ministries around the United States. We also spread the gospel by hosting special concerts and events on Victory’s North Campus.

3. “To the ends of the earth” - _____

“Jesus said to His followers, ‘Go everywhere in the world, and tell the good news to everyone.’” - *Mark 16:15 NCV*

The primary way we reach our world is through supporting missionaries and projects around the globe. Victory Church is committed to investing resources into missions efforts with a particular focus on unreached people groups, children, and church planting. We also provide opportunities for the people of the church to participate in short-term missions trips throughout the year.

Learn more at victorylakeland.org/missions.

HOW YOU CAN JOIN IN THE MISSION

1. _____

Pray for each of these areas that we might reach people with the Good News of Jesus.

“Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.’”

- *Matthew 9:37–38*

2. _____

Go to these areas to serve others and show them God’s love.

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’ He said, ‘Go and tell this people...’”

- *Isaiah 6:8–9*

3. _____

Give your time and resources to reach people for Christ.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will also be.” - *Matthew 6:19–21*

Step TWO - Belong

We believe that real and lasting life change happens through life-giving relationships, which is why we are a church made up of Small Groups. In the Bible, people worshiped in the temple, but personal ministry happened “house to house.”

“You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house.” - *Acts 20:20*

Small Groups provide 3 opportunities:

1. A place to _____ with others.

“Yes, whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him.” - *1 Corinthians 9:22 TLB*

2. A place to _____ each other.

“We know what real love is because Jesus gave up His life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters.” - *1 John 3:16 NLT*

3. A place to _____ together.

“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.” - *Proverbs 27:17*

HOW SMALL GROUPS WORK

God designed us for relationships; we were never intended to do life alone. We believe that through the intentional connections made in Small Groups that we grow in our walk with Christ. Victory Church has many Small Groups meeting weekly in homes across Lakeland and the surrounding area for people in every stage of life. These groups gather to encourage one another, discuss what is being taught from the Bible on Sunday, pray together, and push each other to go deeper in their walk with Christ. With so many amazing groups to choose from, we know that there is a group with which you can do life!

Four things to know about Victory Small Groups:

1. Our groups are either message-based or curriculum-based.

The Bible teaches that our new life in Christ flows from the power of God's Word. Some groups focus their discussions directly from the messages that are preached on Sunday mornings. This helps us internalize and apply what we have learned.

Other groups might center around the things you are already doing in your life. From sports groups to lunch groups, parenting groups to student groups, Bible study groups to creative arts groups, our groups are as varied as we are.

2. We have three sessions every year.

Life is seasonal, so small groups at Victory are geared to flow with these seasons. Our groups meet in the fall, winter, and spring; with the summer off.

3. You can join a group.

Don't wait to join a small group. You can find the right group for you and your family today by speaking with our Small Groups Pastor or by visiting victorylakeland.org/smallgroups. We will help you connect with a group leader so that you can make plans to check out a group in person.

4. You can lead a group.

Each one of us has different strengths that can be used to build the church. One way you can use your unique giftings is by leading a small group. The first step toward becoming a small group leader is to attend the Introduction to Small Group Leader Training during Step Four of the GrowTrack. This training process is available at different times throughout the year to help you start a Small Group that will thrive. You'll discover the blessing that comes with leading people in the church into a meaningful connection!

BECOME A MEMBER OF VICTORY CHURCH

There is something powerful about moving beyond simply attending church. Church membership is for anyone who is ready to commit to being a part of this church family and recognizes that they agree with Victory Church's beliefs, strategy, and structure.

When considering church membership, it is important to understand who we are and what we value as a church family.

Victory Church Core Values

1. Reach the Lost

We believe God has us on this earth to see people meet Jesus; that is why we strive to make the most of every opportunity to invite people to encounter God's grace; and, faithfully support missions and evangelism efforts around the world.

2. Biblical Preaching

We believe people are transformed by the living and enduring Word of God; that is why we preach through the Bible, chapter by chapter, and verse by verse.

3. You can join a group.

Don't wait to join a small group. You can find the right group for you and your family today by speaking with our Small Groups Pastor or by visiting victorylakeland.org/smallgroups. We will help you connect with a group leader so that you can make plans to check out a group in person.

4. Prayer, Praise and Worship

We believe connecting with God through prayer, praise, and worship is absolutely essential; that is why our prayer meeting is our most important service of the week, and passionate praise is at the forefront of our gatherings.

5. Children & Youth

We believe raising up the next generation is a significant part of our calling; that is why we are deeply committed to pouring into our children and youth.

6. Involve People in Ministry

We believe the church is strengthened when people get involved; that is why we encourage every person in the church to find a place to make a difference.

7. Biblical Stewardship

We believe every Christian should advance the spread of the gospel through the ministry of Victory Church that is why we encourage everyone to tithe faithfully, invest in world missions, and give offerings as the Lord leads.

8. Encourage People

We believe, in Christ, the best is yet to come; that is why we encourage people to trust God for big things.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

What you believe changes everything.

Scripture

The Scriptures are true, authoritative and sufficient.

Psalm 19:7-11; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21

One True God

There is one true God, Creator of heaven and earth, who eternally exists in three distinct persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:9-10; John 17:3;1 Timothy 2:5; 1 Corinthians 8:4-6; Genesis 1:26; 2 Corinthians 13:14

Sin and Salvation

All humanity, Christ excluded, is sinful by both birth and action, and Jesus Christ died as the sacrificial substitute to pay the penalty for sin. Only through faith in the person, and works of Jesus Christ, and repentance from sin, can one be reconciled to God and experience true life and joy.

Romans 3:12-21, 23, 5:8, 7:18; Ephesians 2:1-3; Communion: 1 Corinthians 11:23-25, 15:1-4; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 1:4; 1 Peter 2:22-24, 3:18; John 3:18; Matthew 28:19

Resurrection

Jesus Christ physically rose from the dead, ascended into heaven and will one day physically return, and only those who turn from sin and to Jesus in faith and repentance will be raised to eternal reward.

Matthew 28:1-20; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-53; John 1:20-21, 25, 11:24-25; 1 Corinthians 15:12-34; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Hebrews 9:28; 1 John 3:2; Revelation 1:7; John 5:28-29

You may find the full statement of what we believe in the appendix section of your GrowTrack book.

VICTORY CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Believers who invest their heart, time, family and finances in the building of a local church deserve to have confidence in church leadership. People are looking for leaders to conduct themselves with integrity and respect when making decisions that affect their lives.

Our Church Government

The Lead Pastor is the spiritual overseer of the Church and directs its activities. He is the President of the Corporation and acts as Chairman of all business meetings and the meetings of the Church Board. He selects his ministerial and administrative staff and determines their job portfolio.

The Church Board serves the Church as fiduciary custodians and acts in an advisory capacity, assisting the Lead Pastor in all matters pertaining to the Church in its spiritual life and in the ministry of its ordinances.

The Church Members serve as the voting body to prayerfully elect the Lead Pastor and Church Board Members when there are vacancies. They also vote on all borrowing and property acquisitions.

CHURCH FINANCES

“A tithe of everything...belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.” - *Leviticus 27:30*

“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.”

- *1 Corinthians 16:2*

1. Tithes
2. Offerings
3. Missions
4. Building & Development Fund
5. Other Gifts

We recognize that giving 10% of our income is the biblical standard for giving. God also prompts our hearts to give over and above the tithe to support missions work, help those in need, and see the church grow.

The giving of tithes and offerings is worship to God and evidence of the relationship between the giver and God. Giving expresses our belief that everything we have comes from, and belongs to God, and He is our ultimate provider.

MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and having subsequently been baptized in water by immersion and being in agreement with Victory Church's doctrinal statements, strategy, and structure presented in GROW TRACK Step Two, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Victory Church family. In doing so, I make the following commitment to God and the other members to do the following:

1. I will protect the unity of my church:

By acting in love toward other members.

By refusing to gossip.

By following the leaders.

“So let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony, and on the growth of our fellowship together.” - *Romans 14:19 PH*

“Have a sincere love for other believers, love one another earnestly with all your heart.”
- *1 Peter 1:22 GNT*

“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*

“Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.” - *Hebrews 13:17*

2. I will share the responsibility of my church:

By praying for its growth.

By inviting the unchurched to attend.

By warmly welcoming those who visit.

“To the church...we always thank God for you and pray for you constantly.”
- *1 Thessalonians 1:2*

“The Master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes, and urge the people there to come so my house will be full.’” - *Luke 14:23 NCV*

3. I will serve the ministry of my church:

By discovering my gifts and talents.

By being equipped to serve by my pastors.

By developing a servant’s heart.

“Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you.” - *1 Peter 4:10 PH*

“God 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*

“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. I will support the testimony of my church:

By attending faithfully.

By living a godly life.

By growing in the grace of giving.

“Let us not give up the habit of meeting together...but let us encourage one another.”
- *Hebrews 10:25*

“But whatever happens, make sure that your everyday life is worthy of the gospel of Christ.” - *Philippians 1:27*

“Each one of you, on the first day of each week, should set aside a specific sum of money in proportion to what you have earned and use it for the offering.” - *1 Corinthians 16:2*

JOIN A DREAM TEAM

All of us were created by God to make a difference in the lives of people. Every Dream Team at Victory Church provides unique opportunities for you to use your abilities and passions to impact the lives of others. We believe your life will never make sense until you find and fulfill that purpose.

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” - *Ephesians 2:10*

“However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, my aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me.” - *Acts 20:24*

“Now God gives us many kinds of special abilities...There are different kinds of service to God [ministry]...All of you together are the one body of Christ, and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it.” - *1 Corinthians 12:4-5, 27 LB*

AT VICTORY CHURCH WE BELIEVE

1. Every team member is a _____ .

2. Every task is a _____ .

3. Every member is a “10” in _____ .

To join the Victory Dream Team, you need to complete the Victory Church GrowTrack.

At Step FOUR of GrowTrack, you will complete the following steps to join the team:

1. Orientation

Attend an orientation session in the ministry area of your choice to learn how to get involved.

2. Application

Complete the Dream Team application and submit it to a Dream Team leader during your orientation session.

3. Conversation

Participate in a one-on-one conversation with one of our Dream Team members at your orientation session to make a personal connection to the team.

4. Serve

Start serving, being trained and equipped to fulfill your purpose on the Dream Team!

Your Next Steps to Belong

1. Become a member of Victory Church.

Membership at Victory Church is about connecting your life with the people and the vision of the church.

2. Join a small group.

God designed us for relationship, and we believe that God uses the connections made in Small Groups to bring spiritual growth. Find a group that interests you, contact the leader and make plans to check it out in person.

Find the group that's right for you at victorylakeland.org/groups.

3. Complete all four steps of GrowTrack.

Step One - Believe, Step Two - Belong, Step Three - Become, Step Four - Build