

Growth Track

stepONE: Connect to Our Church

**“I HAVE COME THAT
THEY MAY HAVE LIFE,
AND HAVE IT TO THE FULL.”**

JOHN 10:10

Sojourn City Church

Growth Track

Sojourn City Church's Growth Track guides you through the process of discovering your redemptive purpose and living the life God created for you. Growth Track consists of four steps that equip you to 1) connect to our church, 2) discover the strengths of your purposeful design, 3) develop your personal leadership, and 4) use your God-given gifts to make a difference in the lives of others.

stepONE – Connect to Our Church

Explore the ministry of Sojourn City Church, and find out how to connect with our church. Step One takes place the first Sunday of every month.

stepTWO – Discover Your Design

Dive into the details of your personality, discover your gifts, and see how your design reveals your purpose in life and your best fit in ministry. Step Two takes place the second Sunday of every month.

stepTHREE – Develop Your Leadership

Find out what it means to be a leader at Sojourn City Church, and learn how you can strengthen your character to fulfill your leadership potential. Step Three takes place the third Sunday of every month.

stepFOUR – Join the Team

Connect to the opportunities available to live out your purpose and serve others by using your God-given gifts at Sojourn City Church. Step Four takes place the fourth Sunday of every month.

OUR STORY

Sojourn City Church began with a dream—a dream to renew the Bluegrass Region of Kentucky for Christ. In 2014, God began to put this dream in the hearts of Dr. J.P. and Christie Vick.

They had been serving as Youth Pastors in a local church for many years when God began to stir their hearts for planting a new church in the area. J.P. and Christie felt led to start a life-giving church where people from different backgrounds could experience the love and the life-changing power of God. Out of this season of prayer, planning, and preparation, Sojourn City Church was born!

In October of 2014, Sojourn City Church held its first-ever Sunday Service in a pop-up, store-front location in downtown Lexington. In December of that same year, the church transitioned from holding one Sunday Service each month and began hosting weekly Sunday Services. Only two years ago, a permanent location became available, and Sojourn City Church made the move to Midway, Kentucky, in the heart Woodford County.

In the short history of Sojourn City Church, what God has done has been nothing short of a miracle. Each week, a dedicated team of volunteers and leaders come together to lift up the Name of Jesus in Midway, and the entire region is beginning to take notice. People are joining the Sojourn City Church family by committing their lives to Christ, expressing a desire to be baptized in water, and by stepping onto the Dream Team!

Our story is only beginning, and we are thrilled that YOU are part of it! People across the Bluegrass Region of Kentucky are being reached for Jesus, and they are discovering their full potential, in Christ, through our Growth Track. We're just getting started, and the best is yet to come!

OUR PRAYER FOR YOU

"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in His holy people" (Ephesians 1:17-18).

"I ask the God of our Master, Jesus Christ, the God of glory—to make you intelligent and discerning in knowing Him personally, your eyes focused and clear, so that you can see exactly what it is He is calling you to do, grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life He has for His followers" (Ephesians 1:17-19, MSG).

Our spiritual journey consists of four steps:

1. _____

"[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).

2. _____

"[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).

3. _____

"[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).

4. _____

"[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).

PART I: VISION AND STRATEGY

Sojourn City Church is intentionally organized around these four steps:

1. KNOW GOD - _____

We consider reaching people who do not know God personally, our greatest responsibility. Our Sunday Services are for people at all stages in their spiritual journey, but they are primarily geared toward those who do not yet have a genuine relationship with God.

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, NKJV).

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).

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 we share Christ with others:

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

As we continue 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. Share your personal _____.

4. Give a personal _____.

In our City, our Nation, and our World

"You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

In addition to our efforts during Sunday Services, we are focused on reaching people in three key places designated by Jesus:

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 cities is through our Sunday services, Serve Day, and Outreach Small Groups.

2. "In Judea and Samaria" — _____.

"As they traveled from town to town, they presented the simple guidelines the Jerusalem apostles and leaders had come up with. That turned out to be most helpful. Day after day the congregations became stronger in faith and larger in size" (Acts 16:4-5, MSG).

The primary way we reach our nation is by starting new churches and strengthening existing churches through the Church Multiplication Network of the Assemblies of God (CMN). We also invest in planting new churches across the Commonwealth of Kentucky by contributing to the Kentucky Ministry Network of the Assembly of God's 2% Advance Fund. (2% of every dollar given to our church's General Fund is invested in church-planting and revitalization, in Kentucky!)

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).

At Sojourn City Church, we intentionally invest a portion of our resources in missions-work all around the world with a focus on unreached people groups, children, and church-planting. Our goal is that, by the end of 2020, 10% or more of our annual revenue will be designated toward giving to missions!

How you can participate:

1. _____.

Pray that we might reach people in each of these areas 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. _____.

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).

3. _____.

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

"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).

2. FIND FREEDOM- _____

We believe life change happens in the context of relationships. Small Groups (scheduled to launch in Fall 2019) have one simple purpose: to bring people together. God created us to live in community with others, and it is only then that we can experience the full life He intends for us.

SMALL GROUPS will provide three things:

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).

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

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).

When we do life together, our problems become smaller, as God uses others to bring support and encouragement to our lives. Small 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.

3. A place to _____ together.

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17).

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

Small Groups Model

We base our Small Groups model on the early church as described in the Bible in the book of Acts. In Acts, you can read about how small group meetings in homes helped lay the foundation for tremendous growth in the first church in Jerusalem.

"Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah" (Acts 5:42).

"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).

Sojourn City Church is a church *of* Small Groups, not a church *with* Small Groups.

Four Things You Should Know About Small Groups:

1. Our groups are "Free Market."

We want people to gather together based on things that they enjoy and are important to them. Essentially, the things you are already doing in your life are the things that can make up your Small Group! 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. All groups fall within eight hubs:

*Men • Women • Marriage and Family • Students
Freedom • Prayer • Outreach • Financial*

2. We have three semesters every year.

Life flows in seasons, and we want to make it easy for you to be in the right Small 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 – 10 Weeks
February-April

Summer – 6 Weeks
June-July

Fall – 10 Weeks
September-November

3. Everyone can join a group.

Our hope is for every person at Sojourn City Church to be connected in meaningful community through a Small Group. With many groups to choose from, we are confident there is a group that is a great fit for you. During the semester, you can search through our groups directory online at sojourncity.com. Once you find a few groups that interest you, contact the leaders to learn more and make plans to check them out in person.

4. Everyone can host a group.

We believe hosting 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, hosting a group is a great way to bring people together in meaningful community.

To learn more about becoming a Small Group Leader, attend a Small Group Leadership Training. Even if you're not sure if you're ready to host a group, we invite you to come to a training.

3. DISCOVER PURPOSE- _____

Growth Track exists to help you discover and develop your purpose and live the full life God created for you. Growth Track is made up of four steps, which guide you through next steps in your journey to know God, find freedom, discover purpose, and make a difference.

"Let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity" (Hebrews 6:1).

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10).

4. MAKE A DIFFERENCE- _____

All of us were created by God to make a difference in the life of another person. 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 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, if only I may 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, TLB).

AT SOJOURN CITY CHURCH:

1. Every member is a _____.
2. Every task is _____.
3. Every member is a "10" in _____.

Discover what you do well, and take steps to use your gifts to make a difference. You can start by joining the Dream Team at Step Four of the Growth Track.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE ON THE DREAM TEAM:

Our Dream Team does the work of the ministry during our services and throughout the week. The Dream Team consists of dedicated, passionate individuals who want to make a difference in their community and the world around them. Their work includes greeting people that attend our Sunday Services, making coffee, checking-in kids for Sojourn Kids Services, serving in the nursery, playing on the Worship Team, data-entry for follow-up after Sunday Services, leading Small Groups throughout the week, and so much more! **To join the**

Dream Team, you need to complete Steps 1-4 of the Growth Track. You will have the opportunity to join the Dream Team upon completion of all four steps.

Part II: Organizational Structure

Organizational Structure

- a. Government
- b. Finances

As you consider investing your heart, time, family, and finances into the life of a church, it is important for you to feel confident in church leadership. Our goal in sharing the details of Sojourn City Church's government is that you will understand that our church is structured to support the values of integrity, accountability, and spiritual authority.

A. CHURCH GOVERNMENT:

Our church government is made up of two primary groups of Leaders:

1. Guided by _____
The Pastoral Ministry team is led by the Lead Pastor. This team oversees the day-to-day ministry and operations of the church. These staff pastors serve the congregation and are responsible for the development of the spiritual life of the church.
2. Protected by _____
The Elder Board consists of up to seven members of the congregation, affirmed by the church's active partners (members). They oversee the finances and direct the provision of the facilities needed by the church. They provide counsel to the Lead Pastor regarding the major financial commitments of the church. The Elder Board also provides spiritual protection to the church. They may be called upon to help in accountability matters relating to the Lead Pastor, if requested to do so by the Pastoral staff, by the partners, or by way of their own initiative.

B. CHURCH FINANCES

"Every Sunday each of you make an offering and put it in safekeeping. Be as generous as you can. When I get there you'll have it ready, and I won't have to make a special appeal" (1 Corinthians 16:1-4, MSG).

At Sojourn City Church, we practice tithing for the support of Christ's Body, the church, as God commands. We recognize that giving 10% of our income is the Biblical standard for giving.

"Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year" (Deuteronomy 14:22-26).

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it” (Malachi 3:10).

Giving is one of the central themes of Scripture. Jesus talked more about this subject than Heaven, Hell, or prayer. To understand what it means to be a Christ-follower, we must also understand what it means to be a giver.

1. Tithe

The tithe, or “first fruits” of our labor/income belong to God. We find this principle all through God’s Word. Tithing, giving God the first 10% of our income to the local church, is the primary, practical way we acknowledge that God is first (Proverbs 3:9–10).

2. Offerings

An offering is giving over and above the tithe. The Bible says that by giving generously, we are able to “take hold of the life that is truly life.” You aren’t really living unless you are freely giving (1 Timothy 6:18–19).

3. The Gift of Giving

The gift of giving is a spiritual gift that God gives to some people (Romans 12:8). It is a Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by giving of your material resources, far beyond the tithe, to further the work of God.

Many people love to give to God and as they do, they want to feel confident in the organization through which they give. At Sojourn City Church, we want people to understand they are giving to God through the church, not to the church. As we openly share the honesty, integrity, and spiritual values that guide the financial practices of Sojourn City Church, we believe people can focus on what God is calling them to give and trust that He is leading our church to steward it well.

The giving of tithes and offerings is worship to Jesus and an expression of the relationship between the individual giver and the Lord. Funds are not “income only,” they are worship and are not considered to be a business transaction but an expression of gratitude toward God.

Sojourn City Church’s Budget

Our prayer is that, by the end of 2020, all monetary investments made into Sojourn City Church will be budgeted accordingly:

_____ %	Missions
_____ %	Personnel
_____ %	Ministry
_____ %	Facilities

Part III: Becoming a Member

Sojourn City Church Membership Covenant

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and being in agreement with the values and ideas presented in Growth Track: Step One, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Sojourn City Church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to 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 one another's character" (Romans 14:19, PH).

"Live in complete harmony with each other – each with the attitude of Christ toward the other" (Romans 15:5, TLB).

"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 and health.
By inviting the unchurched to attend.
By warmly welcoming those who visit.

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

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

"So, warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified" (Romans 15:7, TLB).

3. I will support 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's heart.

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

“So Christ Himself gave...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).

“Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus... taking the form of a bondservant” (Philippians 2:4-5, 7, NKJV).

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

Attending Sunday Services and Small Groups faithfully.

Living a Godly life.

Giving regularly.

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

“Let us not neglect our meeting together...but encourage one another” (Hebrews 10:25, NLT).

“But whatever happens, make sure that your everyday life is worthy of the Gospel of Christ” (Philippians 1:27, PH).

To read through our full Statement of Faith, see the handout attached to this packet.

Where do we go from here?

1. Become a member of Sojourn City Church.

Membership at Sojourn City Church is not about adding your name to a roster; it’s about connecting with the people and the vision of the church. It’s becoming a partner with our church.

2. Join a Small Group.

Browse our online directory of groups at sojourncity.com. Find a group that interests you, contact the leader and make plans to try it out in person.

3. Complete all four steps of the Growth Track.

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