

# Next Steps

At Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, we recognize that everyone has a **next step** to take in finding and then living life with Jesus. We also recognize that the journey of a lived faith is meant to be taken with others in a family called the church. So, we've put together a process to make that journey clearer and to help you make the progress on your spiritual path. Our process starts with "**Starting Point**"—a 2-week series that is designed to help you find your way to a deeper connection with God and His church.



## Starting Point—2-session study

### *Discovering Pleasant Grove*

This session provides newcomers and prospective members a sense for what PGBC is all about by covering the mission, vision and core values of the church, as well as fundamentals of the faith and the core disciplines needed for spiritual growth.

### *Loving and Growing*

This session covers the foundation for loving God and growing in community and covers the biblical call to include other believers in our walk with God. It offers insight into all of the opportunities at PGBC to get plugged into a Life Group where people experience growth through authentic, godly relationships.

### *Serving and Sharing*

This session will explain how you can serve and share by using your time, talent and treasure to intentionally serve the church and the community and beyond in the name of Christ, for the sake of the Gospel.

## Loving God

### *Follow Jesus*

We treasure the person, character, work and reputation of Jesus. We believe that the way to peace with God comes as we yield to Him and accept the free gift of life with God that comes through His Son Jesus. He is the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Him. Jesus came that we might have life that is full and abundant. If you have questions about how to begin this life with Jesus, please contact us.



## Baptism

A **next step** for all followers of Jesus is to make that decision public by being baptized. By being dipped under water and then raised back up, baptism depicts the story of salvation; you once were dead in your sin, but now you have been made alive to follow a brand-new way of life.

At Pleasant Grove, we have Baptism Celebrations several times each year. These provide a dedicated time to celebrate with individuals and families the life change that a relationship with Jesus gives. Something real happens when someone begins to follow Jesus and we want to celebrate that change!

## Membership

At Pleasant Grove, we recognize that everyone has a **next step** to take in finding and then living life with Jesus. We also recognize that the journey of a lived faith is meant to be taken with others in a family called the church. So, we've put together a process to make that journey clearer and to help you make progress on your spiritual path. The process begins with **Starting Point**—a 2-week series held on Sundays that is designed to help you find your way to a deeper connection with God and His church here at PGBC. It also provides an opportunity for church membership.

# Growing in Faith

## Life Groups

One of the most important things we do here at Pleasant Grove is help people build relationships for life. We do this through what we call Life Groups. God never intended for our spiritual journeys to be solo pursuits. He created us for community, and in Christ, we belong together. We know that spiritual growth happens best in the context of small groups, so we invite you to experience one of our Life Groups so you can meet friends and build meaningful relationships where you know others and they know you.

*How do I experience a Life Group?* Strong friendships are built when people share life experiences. This is why we group our Life Groups according to the different life seasons we journey through. However, we invite you to check out any of our Life Groups. Most Life Groups meet on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights.

Sunday morning adult small group leaders are—co-ed class teachers: Bob Vaughan, Paula Frazier, Alan Minor, Dale Tysinger, Frances Wortham, Lori Johnson/Rebecca Fisher, Lou Jean Peace and Cliff McRoy. Ladies class taught by Helen Walton.

Wednesday evening adult small group leaders are—women’s group – Paula Frazier and Catherine Raynor leaders; men’s group – Jeff Parker and Will Pitt leaders; co-ed group – Lou Jean Peace leader; prayer group – Pastor Jack leader.

## Serving Others

We believe that we look most like Jesus when we are serving. We are excited to serve others in His name following His example. We do this through acts of generosity, church-wide service projects done for local communities and schools, and Life Group-led projects that aid those who help the underprivileged among us. We are intentional about finding ways to show the love and life of Jesus through service.



*Church More Thank Bricks small group serving up the food at Christmas time.*



*Pleasant Grove Baptist Church GA Mission Project!! Operation Beary Nice and Police Officer Appreciation!!*

There are also many opportunities to serve right here at Pleasant Grove both during services and throughout the week.

Volunteer teams represent the right combination of abilities and giftedness, serving with a united purpose—to make disciples and change the world by serving God, serving each other and serving the church.

*Opportunities of serving:* missions outreach, music ministry, building maintenance, finance stewardship, Life Group leadership/hosting, prayer ministry, Family Promise, children’s ministry, youth/student ministry, recreation ministry and others.

## Sharing your Faith

We’re always looking for opportunities to share the Good News of God’s great love and the hope of new life made real by faith in the life, death and resurrection of His Son. Because our lives have been forever changed by God’s love, we want everyone we know to experience the love and new life only God can give.

We provide opportunities to help share the Gospel through events, special outreaches and mission trips. A simple, 3-step strategy we use and teach at PGBC is called

*I<sup>3</sup>: Invest, InterCede, Invite.*



## Invest

Pray daily, asking God to show you the people you are to invest in. Then, look for ways to spend time with them so you can invest and intercede for them.

## InterCede

Pray daily for God to show you people to invest in, intercede for and invite to church and Jesus. If you will be consistent in prayer with a heart concerned for those far from God, then you will begin to see people as God sees them. When you see them as God sees them, it is natural for you to invest in building a loving relationship. Out of your relationship will come opportunities for you to

ask them if you can intercede for their hurts and difficult situations? You are not promising God will intervene just that you will pray for them. But know this, God desires to answer these prayers for the lost to show them He is God. As God works in answer to your prayers, it gives you the opportunity to invite them to PGBC and Jesus.

## Invite

Invite someone to a weekend service or a special event such as Easter or Harvest Celebration. Your friends will be comfortable in the environment we provide. Statistics show it may take up to 7 invites before they accept. When they do come, follow up with them and take them to a meal after the event. Ask them what they thought. Or later in the week, ask how it went. Share your thoughts as well and keep investing love in them and invite them again. Our goal is for people to take the **next step** toward Jesus whatever that is. These steps are all different. It may be that they want to talk. They may want or need to study or to just hang out with you and your family.

### ***Share your story***

The story of your life with God is your story, it is unique and personal. Take some time to think about what God has done in your life. Write it out and praise God for it. Then, be ready to share it when God gives you an opportunity. Also, be ready to routinely share what God is teaching you now in the routines and challenges of your life.

### ***Share the Gospel***

Be prepared to share the Good News. There are several resources online to help you gain the confidence to openly share with family and friends. The first step is usually the biggest challenge, but once you take that step, it will become more comfortable.

*Be a contagious Christian, full of the love of Christ  
so that those around you will want what you have in Jesus!*



*Pleasant Grove Singers shared their faith with song to members of Lighthouse Fellowship Church in Knightdale, NC.*