



NL Church Discipleship Strategy and Structure

Discipleship is a process that every follower of Christ goes through from spiritual birth until physical death; it is therefore not a program or a class. Discipleship or Spiritual Formation is the process of daily becoming more like Christ and an increase in trusting Him. Discipleship has two elements: First, each one of us takes personal responsibility for faith and our spiritual growth through Loving God, Loving People, and Loving Life. Second, it is our responsibility and privilege to walk with others in their spiritual growth. Jesus' last command was "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19 – 20 ESV).

At New Life, we have found that people grow in their faith through practical teaching, practicing spiritual disciplines, getting involved in ministry, building healthy relationships, and learning how to grow in the midst of life's circumstances. Andy Stanley in *Deep and Wide: Creating Churches Unchurched People Love to Attend* refers to them as "five things God uses to grow your faith." It is therefore our attempt to lead as follows:

1. Practical Teaching

- a. Our messages are geared around the application of God's word. We are not attempting to dispense knowledge for knowledge sake. Rather, we are sharing knowledge with the focus of life change.
- b. We will:
 - i. Encourage people to put the message into practice.
 - ii. Provide opportunities and ideas for putting message into practice.
- c. Teaching will be geared with the audience in mind. Children's lessons will have practical application for where they are in life. For example,

application will be geared toward how do I apply this scripture to getting along with my parents, siblings, and friends. Teens will have application of God's word to what they deal with; for example - dating, parents, friends, bullying, etc...

2. Spiritual Disciplines

- a. No one said being a Jesus follower was easy. The fact is, we are involved in a spiritual battle. Satan is described as "seeking whom he may devour" and as fallen people we are constantly at war with our sinful nature (Rom. 6 – 7).
- b. Fortunately, God does give us some tools to not only defeat the attacks of the enemy but to also go forward with power and faith.
- c. We will encourage and make opportunity for the following:
 - i. Individual and corporate prayer
 - ii. Daily Bible reading and study
 - iii. Fasting
 - iv. Generous giving
 - v. Service
 - vi. Evangelism

3. Ministry involvement

- a. Believers grow when they are serving in Jesus name. A growing believer who is not a serving believer is an oxymoron.

- b. 1 Cor. 12 -14 describes all believers with a gift and serving in ministry. We are all full time ministers. The Pastors primary job is to equip and empower people to serve (Ephesians 4:12).
- c. Our motto for Sunday is: Worship in one and Serve in one. We will make ministry involvement easy. A service card is also available in the pew and a discovering your gifts class is offered once a quarter.

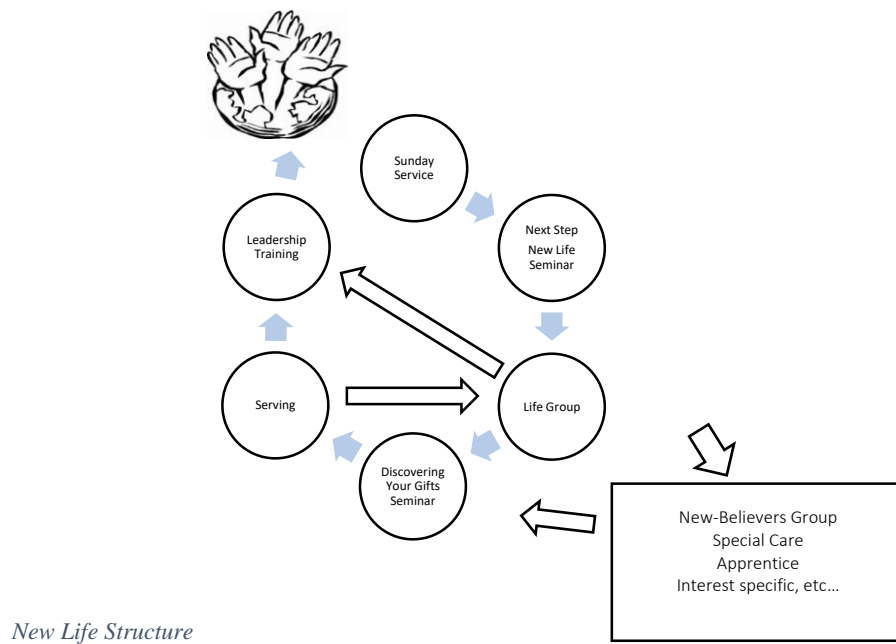
4. Relationships

We all need people to connect with on a deep level because God designed us that way (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Romans 12:4-5). Therefore, we will attempt to create moments where relationships can happen through the coffee shop, Life Groups, ministry involvement, prayer gatherings, etc....

5. Circumstances

- a. Growth happens through life's crucibles. Jesus assures us that we will all have hurts, difficulties, pain, suffering, and if the Lord should delay His return, we will all untimely face death (John 16:33).
- b. A growing believer learns how to take his or her trials and difficulties to Christ in prayer and with God's help demonstrates grace and the fruit of the Spirit (But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control... Galatians 5:22 - 23).
- c. We will help people not to run from conflict or to run to it, but we will continue offer comfort and guidance in the midst of it.

Discipleship Structure



Adult Sunday Gathering:

Sunday is our main gathering day, it is a day of celebration, teaching, service and encouragement. Sunday is also the day most first time decisions are made for Christ. With this in mind, Sunday is the most important day of the week. Sunday gatherings are generally planned one year in advance so that we intentionally share all of the gospel message. Each week, a message handout will be offered for people to take notes and to write down the weeks plan of action.

Next Steps (We have 4 next steps for someone who gets saved or is new to NL Church)

- Discovering New Life Class:

Everyone who calls New Life Assembly of God his or her home church is encouraged to attend our Discovering New Life class. This three hour seminar goes over the church's Mission, Vision, Strategy, and Belief. This seminar also gives opportunity for membership. Membership is mandatory for all leadership roles.

- Water Baptism

We encourage every new believer to be baptized in water, water baptism is scheduled once a quarter.

- Discovering My Gifts Seminar

“Discovering My Gifts” is a seminar that reviews the Personality Profile and Spiritual Gifts Assessment. In this seminar, believers learn about personality types, spiritual gifts, and complete their own assessments. Upon completion of the seminar, participants are encouraged to serve in at least one area of ministry. Our motto is, “Serve in one and worship in one.”

- Holy Spirit Seminar

In this class, we will discuss the need for Holy Spirit baptism and give opportunity for people to seek Holy Spirit baptism.

New Believers Class

New believers are encouraged to be part of the New Believers Class. The new believers who are not part of the class and who do not have a Christian mentor are connected with a maturing Christian for a period of one year. This connection could be in a Life Group format or it could be one-on-one. Regardless, the more mature Christian is asked to contact the new believer at least once every two weeks for one year.

Life Groups

Life Groups are the umbrella for all small group ministry at New Life including, Home Groups, Special Interest Groups, Recreation Groups, and Service Groups. We encourage all married couples to be a part of a group together if possible. This strengthens a marriage and family.

Leadership Training:

At least one training seminar will be available/required every year for all leaders and people who are interested in leading. Topics will equip people to be better disciple-makers by providing opportunities to improve skills.