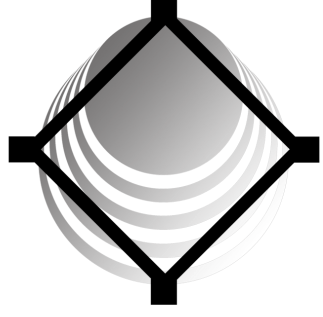


BIG PACKET

Name: _____



Paradigm^[tc]

MEMBERSHIP

Membership

Goal:

I will commit myself to Christ and to the Thrive Church family.

You Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners.
You are citizens with everyone else who belongs to the family of God.

Ephesians 2:19 [CEV]

Praise the LORD. I will extol the LORD with all my heart
in the council of the upright and in the assembly.

Psalms 111:1 [NIV]

I will give You thanks in the great congregation.

Psalms 35:18 [NIV]

I will tell of Your name to my brethren;
in the midst of the assembly I will praise You.

Psalms 22:22 [NASB]

But now God has placed the members, each one of them,
in the body, just as He desired.

1 Corinthians 12:18 [NASB]

3 truths about the church:

1. The church is a Family .

"Your spiritual family is going to outlast your physical family"

2. God expects me to belong to a local congregation.

When the word "church" is used in the Bible, it is used in two distinct ways. First, it is used to describe every Christian who has ever lived throughout history, this is called the universal church. The second way the church is described is the local church, such as the church at Corinth or the church at Ephesus. The word church is only used four times in the general universal sense. Every other time is a reference to a specific local church body.

Once you become a believer, you automatically become part of the universal church, but you don't become part of a local church until you make the choice of obeying God's Word and become a member of a local body of believers.

3. A Christian who is not a member of a local body is a Spiritual Amputee.

Real membership is not about having a membership card to a local church, it is about BEING A MEMBER OF THE LOCAL BODY! The word "member" means "body part." In fact, the epidemic of "church hopping" is the equivalent of your physical eye saying "I'm going to fellowship in another body this weekend." How would that impact your body? You would go blind and the eye would shrivel up and die! The difference from being a Christian and church member is a matter of commitment. A Christian makes a commitment to Christ and a member makes a commitment to both Christ and other Christians.

Membership

What defines a healthy church?

There are four building blocks that create a pattern (or a paradigm) for a healthy church and we call them our four “S”s

1. Our Salvation
“What God has done for us”

2. Our Statements
“Why we exist as a church”

3. Our Strategies
“How we fulfill our purpose”

4. Our Schedule
“When and where we fulfill our purpose”

“While Pastor Rick Warren was in seminary in Dallas, Texas, he took it upon himself to study the 100 largest and fastest growing churches in America to determine the common principles concerning church health.

(A large church doesn’t always mean a healthy church; however growth is usually a sign of health.)

One of the characteristics of a healthy, growing church is the pastor and staff stay there and make a long term commitment. They don’t change pastors every couple of years. For example, if a church does this, they are like a family that changes fathers every couple of years and it tends to create unhealthy, dysfunctional situations. According to God’s Word, the anointing flows from the head down and when the authoritative head of the church (the pastor) is in a constant state of disruption, it interferes with the flow of God’s anointing for the local church. Pastors and staff members need to put their roots down and the people of the local church will follow this example.

Another characteristic of a healthy, growing church is this: A church’s health isn’t determined by it’s seating capacity, but by it’s sending capacity. It’s not about how many people your auditorium can hold for service, it’s about how many people your church can equip for service! Assimilation is everything! We don’t build services, we build people for works of service!

Another characteristic of a healthy, growing church is having a clear purpose and a simple strategy to fulfill that purpose. When John Maxwell asked 22 members of his leadership team “what’s the purpose of our church?” he received 16 very different answers. Without a clear purpose and a simple strategy to fulfill that purpose, a church will never be healthy or grow.

Membership

What defines a healthy church?

1. Our Salvation

“What God has done for us”

Our salvation is the foundation that our paradigm program is built on. As we discuss what it means to be a member and what it means to be a healthy, growing church, we must understand that our salvation must be a true biblical conversion experience.

Far too many churches have been more committed to programs and church growth strategies and have been less committed to true biblical conversion. There is a downside to this modern day phenomena of “mega churches” and the “seeker friendly church growth movement” and it is this:

It doesn't matter how many people your church is running or how big your facility is if we aren't producing genuine converts for Christ!

In fact, the bible never calls us to build churches... He will do this!

Remember when he told the disciple Peter:

And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. Matthew 16:18 [NIV]

All He called us to do is make disciples of every nation. The church is a byproduct of discipleship but we get it backwards. We try to build churches and then maybe do discipleship someday, but it was the Master's commission of discipleship that built the church.
We build disciples, He builds churches.

It would be better to stand before God with a group of 50 true, sold-out converted disciples than to have a “mega church” with powerful preaching, dynamic worship and state-of-the-art facilities and have it be filled with 5000 “lukewarm Christians” who are no different than the world we live in!

Our salvation is a true conversion experience that builds disciples!

2. Our Statements

“Why we exist as a church”

Our Mission Statement:
Live, Laugh, Love.

Membership
What defines a healthy church?

Our Doctrinal Statements
"What we believe"

The Bible is the inspired and only infallible and authoritative written Word of God.

There is one God, eternally existent in three persons:
God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost.

In the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father; in His personal future return to this earth in power and glory to rule a thousand years.

In the Blessed Hope – the rapture of the church at Christ's Coming.

The only means of being cleansed from sin is through the repentance and faith in the precious blood of Christ.

Regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for personal salvation.

In water baptism by emersion.

The redemptive work of Christ on the cross provides healing of the human body in answer to believing prayer.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit, according to **Acts 2:4** is given to believers who ask for it.

In the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is able to live a holy life.

In the resurrection of both the saved and the lost, the saved to everlasting life and the lost to eternal damnation.

For more information you can visit the official website of the Assemblies of God at **www.ag.org**

Membership

What defines a healthy church?

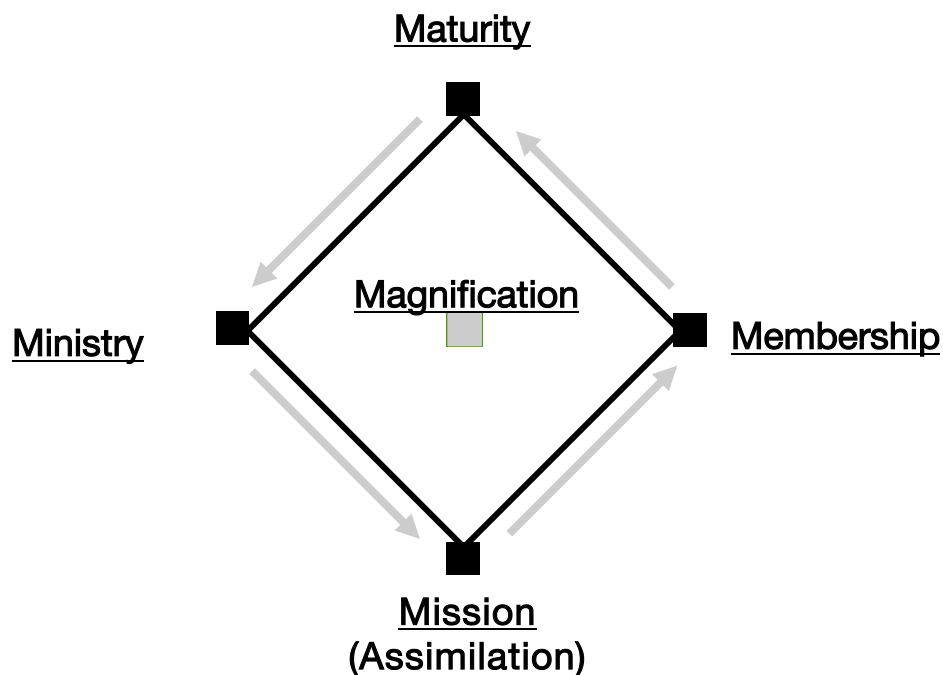
Our Ministry Statements

"Who we have committed to become"

1. We will be people who Love.
Matthew 22:37-39 [NIV], 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 [NIV]
2. We will be people who Serve.
Mark 10:45 [NIV], Philippians 2:4-7 [NIV]
3. We will be people of the Word.
2 Timothy 2:15 [NIV], 2 Timothy 3:16 [NIV]
4. We will be people who Worship.
John 4:24 [NIV], Psalm 100:2 [NIV]
5. We will be people who Finish Strong.
2 Timothy 4:7 [NIV], Ecclesiastes 9:10 [NIV]

Our Strategy

"How we fulfill our purpose"



Membership

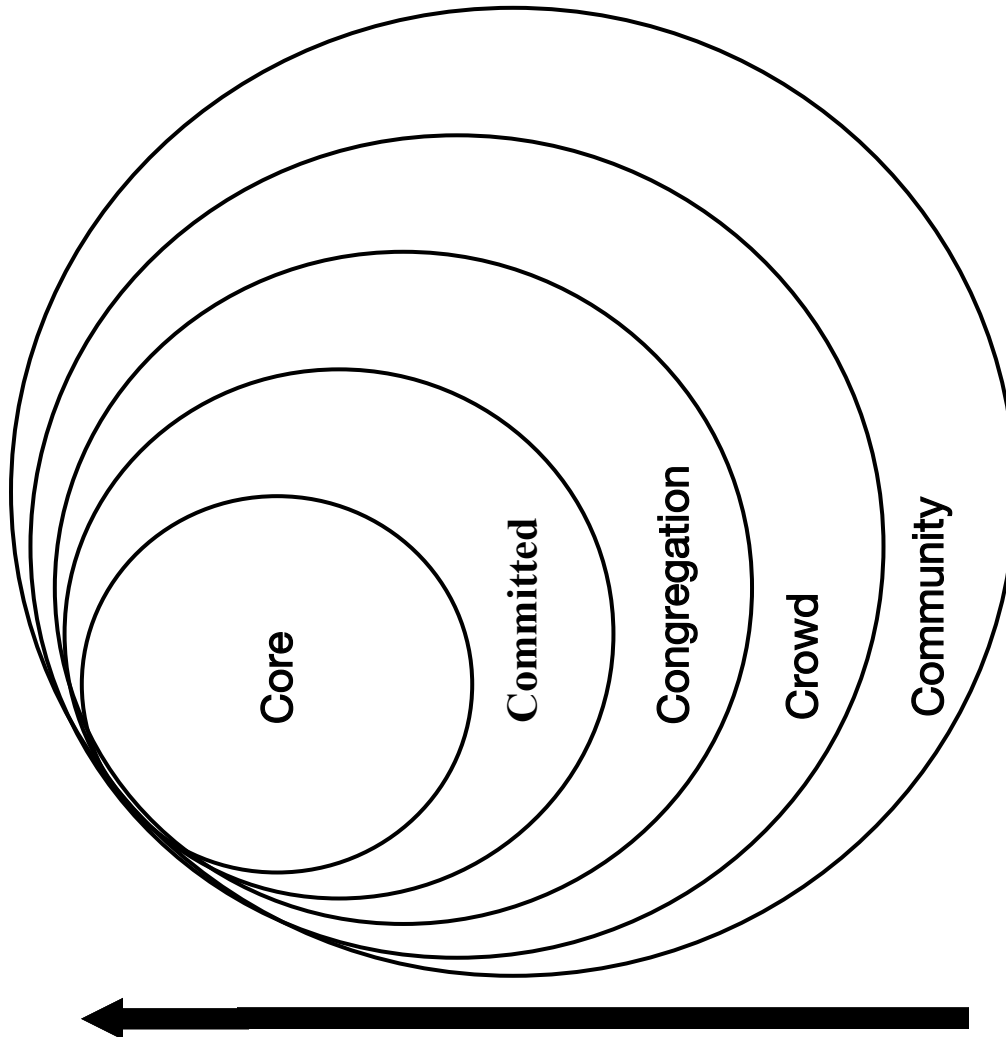
What defines a healthy church?

Our Strategy

"How we fulfill our purpose"

The 5 Concentric Circles of Commitment

"Moving the un-churched (community) into Christian Leadership (core)"



Core Committed Congregation Crowd Community

We believe everyone is called to Christian Leadership!
The goal is to move everybody to the Core!

Membership

What defines a healthy church?

Our Strategy

"How we fulfill our purpose"

Every great church must ask itself one very important question:
"What kind of church are we going to be?"

There are some people who are put off by this question because they don't want to pigeon-hole their church into a narrow minded category. They believe since Christ loves everyone and gave His life for everyone their church shouldn't have a **strategy** on who they are trying to reach. This kind of thinking isn't necessarily wrong, but a church that doesn't have a clear strategy will **never thrive and be healthy**.

The truth is that every church has some kind of strategy behind it. Some of them are spoken, some are unspoken, some of them are effective, some are ineffective. There are many types of strategies for churches. Some churches have a strategy to reach people who like real solemn, orderly, dignified services. Other churches have a strategy to provide really emotional and exciting services. Some churches are very casual while others are formal. All of these churches may be teaching the same core principles about Jesus but they all have **very different styles**.

No one church can appeal to everybody.

It's a lot like a radio station that has a strategy to appeal to everyone. Can you imagine what it would be like? Who would they end up reaching? One minute they play a hard rock song, the next a instrumental jazz song. Then after that, a classical piece by Mozart, only to be followed by marching band music. What kind of audience would that radio station have? The answer is none. Truthfully it would just irritate everybody by trying to reach everyone. Because of how different people can be, **no church can appeal to everyone**.

The next question is: "What kind of church is Thrive Church?"

There are basically three simple models of churches who have a strategy to reach three different groups of people.

Strategy One– **Evangelistic** model: reach the un-churched

Strategy Two– **Traditional** model: reach the church

Strategy Three– **Mixed** model: reach the church and the un-churched

Thrive Church falls under the third category,
the **Mixed** model.

Membership

What defines a healthy church?

Our Schedule

“When and where we fulfill our purpose”

Every church needs a **structure** in order to **grow and become healthy**. Since the Word of God describes the church as a “**body**” [I Corinthians 12] we can use the illustration of a **skeleton** to describe our structure. It is an interesting fact that within nature no animal can grow beyond nine inches without a skeleton. That is why it is so important for our church to have a skeletal structure in order to sustain growth and remain healthy.

We want every person in our church to know our structure, it is not a secret. The more every person in the “body” knows our “skeleton,” the more connected we become. God desires the body to know this:

For God is not a God of **disorder**, but of peace....
I Corinthians 14:33 [NIV Paraphrased]

Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.
I Corinthians 14:40 [NIV]

The following pages contain the
Weekly
Monthly
and **Annual Events**
of Thrive Church.

Please take time to read this information.
It will help you understand our schedule
which is our structure!

Membership

What defines a healthy church?

Our Church:

The goal of this section is to give you as much information as possible about Thrive Church. When people become a part of our church, we want them to know as much as possible about how we operate. This section will give you practical information about our church.

Our Weekly Schedule:

There are many events that take place in our church, but the following is a schedule that we will follow every week for the entire year.

Sunday

Traditional Service 8:00 am
Contemporary Service 9:30 am
Contemporary Service 11:00 am
Spanish Service 1:00 pm

Monday

Intercessory Prayer 9:00 am — 12:00 pm

Wednesday

Surge service for all ages (Adults, Missionettes, Royal Rangers) 7:00 pm

Friday

Pastor Bo's weekly staff meeting (ministry heads/servant leaders) 4:00 pm
Anthem Youth service 7:00 pm

Our monthly schedule:

We try to follow a pattern with our monthly events but they are subject to change due to special events, holidays, or guest speakers.

Senior Banquet - 3rd Sunday of every month @ 1 pm

Get your Can in here - 3rd Sunday of every month

Life Group Leader Meeting - 3rd Sunday of every month at 3:30 pm

Pulse Meeting - 3rd Sunday of every month @ 4:30 pm

Communion - last Sunday of every month

Board of Directors Meeting - 2nd Tuesday of every month 7:30 pm

Membership

What defines a healthy church?

(Our Monthly Schedule Continued)

Family Values Night - This is a special service that we have on the last Wednesday night of every month. It takes place in main auditorium and is for all ages. We use skits, games, human videos and other tools to teach on a certain topic.

Our Annual Schedule:

We try to follow a pattern with our annual events but they are subject to change due to special events, holidays, or guest speakers.

Annual Business Meeting - We always have our annual business meeting in the first part of the New Year. Usually falling on the last Wednesday in January. These meetings are extremely important. We go over the church financial report and vote on board members, as well as many other issues concerning our church. We handle other church voting issues [such as the purchase of property] when they come up throughout the year.

Baby Dedications - We do baby dedications on a quarterly basis. Our church really gets behind these special services and we usually have a lot of guests come for them. You can check in the front office with our secretary to find out when they are for each quarter.

Overcomer's Baptism - Are done during our 11:00 am Sunday Service on a quarterly basis. We take the time during our worship service to share in the joys of those being baptized.

Valentines Day Banquet - Every year we have this special banquet at a nearby Restaurant, hotel or in our Community Room. It's a great event that includes catered food, special music, and a guest speaker.

Easter - We do a lot during this time of the year! We always have a special service for Palm Sunday [the week before Easter] including our tradition of passing out palm branches to everyone on that special day. Without question, our single biggest outreach of the year is our Annual Easter Egg Hunt Outreach. Over the years we have reached literally thousands of people in our community with this single event. It usually takes place on a Saturday one to two weeks before Easter at Carstens Park off of Camenish [two blocks south from our church]. We all know the biggest service of the year is our Easter morning service. Every year we do a production during the morning services that is outstanding. Each service is packed to capacity with standing room only; a very exciting time of the year.

Membership

What defines a healthy church?

[Our Annual Schedule Continued]

Mother's Day / Father's Day Service - In May, we always celebrate our mothers with a special service and our attendance is usually packed in this service. We also honor our fathers in June and we always have a gift for both the mothers and the fathers on these special days. It's our tradition.

Cinco De Mayo - Thrive Church hosts this community event right here in our parking lot. We have a car show, Mexican food, and live music!

Master's Commission Graduation - This is a special service where we honor the MC graduates as their families come from many different states to be with us. This service usually happens one to two weeks before Father's Day in June.

Adopt A Block / Community Kindness - These are our summer ministries designed to reach our community. On Saturdays, We take multiple teams throughout our city and ministers to kids every week. It's like an outdoor children's church service in different locations in our city. Community Kindness is an all church ministry where we take the love of God to the streets by meeting people's needs [lawn care, window cleaning, simple maintenance] as well as doing prayer walks throughout our community. We do this ministry on Sunday nights.

Movie In the Park - This outreach takes place on Sunday nights during a single month of the summer. We set up shop over at Carstens Park, full with a giant screen, popcorn, cotton candy and snow cones. Bring your blanket and enjoy a family friendly movie with the community.

Annual Luau - The Luau is awesome! We have found in the past that it is hard to get everyone together for the Fourth of July weekend so we came up with this annual picnic in August. The food is amazing and the activities are fun for all ages. This is a great event to invite people who don't attend our church on a regular basis.

Back to School Bash - This is another incredible outreach for the people of our community. We know the need is great when school starts, so we have this outreach in September. We offer school supplies, back packs and all kinds of good stuff to help the families of our community with this need. We also have hot dogs, rides, and attractions for the kids as well as an awesome ten to fifteen minute message of hope and salvation from our children's pastor.

Master's Commission Starts - Our discipleship program starts the last two weeks of September. Students from all over the country come to be a part of our church for the next nine months. The program goes all the way through June, including a Christmas break for the students.

Membership

What defines a healthy church?

[Our Annual Schedule Continued]

Pastor Appreciation Month - October is the month when we, as a church, honor our pastors for the high calling they serve. Every year the Board of Directors recognize our seniors pastors as well as all the pastors who serve the people of Thrive Church. Get those home made tortillas ready.

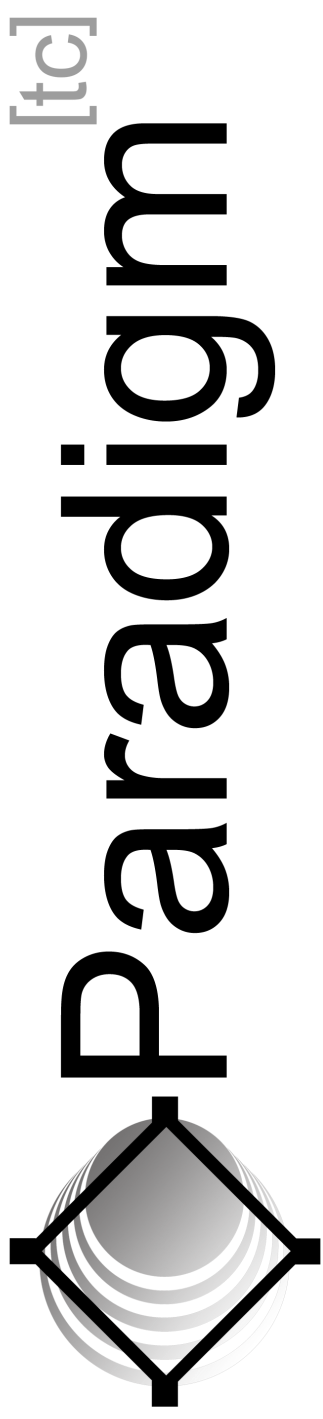
Trunk or Treat - This is easily our second biggest outreach of the year. We offer a safe and fun alternative for our community during the season of Halloween. We invite participants to enter a contest in which they decorate their car and distribute candy in our parking lot. The winner of this contest wins a cash prize. The parents in our community love to come into a safe, warm environment where they can bring their kids. Every year we reach hundreds of families through this awesome outreach!

Thanksgiving Service / Outreach - During the week of Thanksgiving, we have a special service for expressing our thanks to God. Pastor Bo challenges us with a powerful message and we know we have a very special offering we take every year for a special cause. Debbie Porter also organizes our Thanksgiving dinner outreach for needy families in our area. We deliver boxes of complete turkey dinners to show the love of God in a practical way.

Thanksgiving Federal Heights Family Feast - On Thanksgiving Day, the pastors and Core of [TC], come to serve the people of Federal Heights a Thanksgiving meal. The congregation is invited to serve or to fellowship and feast.

Christmas Production / Outreach - Our children's department does an outstanding job putting on our annual Christmas production. Every year they use our children as well as children from the community to be a part of this outreach. People who would never come to a normal church service show up to see these little kids sing their hearts out in their costumes. It's a great way to reach the friends and families of these little ones during the Christmas season. Debbie Porter also organizes an "adopt-a-family" outreach during the weeks leading up to Christmas. There is a small Christmas tree in the church foyer with little tags on it that have families who are in need. We want our families who have been blessed to be a blessing to the families listed on the tree. As you "adopt" these families, Debbie will instruct you when and where to meet with them as you give them their gifts. This is one of the most powerful experiences you can ever be a part of.

New Years Eve Watch Night Service - Every year we have this very special service on New Years Eve. During this service, We look back over the year and casts the vision for the new year. We celebrate with an awesome year end video and Pastor Bo's special MVP award. He selects one person who has been working above and beyond to honor them during this service. Our MVP plaque is in the foyer next to the drinking fountain. Every year it alternates from a man to a woman. We also take a break to have food and fellowship downstairs in the community room. For the young in heart, we usually schedule a late night activity to bring in the new year.



MATURITY

Spiritual Maturity

Class Goal:

*I will commit myself to become a mature Christian
in order to fulfill God's will for my life.*

Unhealthy	Healthy
BEHAVIOR	BEHAVIOR
KNOWLEDGE	KNOWLEDGE

Anytime your knowledge exceeds your behavior you have maturity issues!
Let's say you attend church 3 times a week, that's over 150 sermons a year!

The Word teaches that as we deceive ourselves when we think hearing the Word is the same as doing the Word (James 1:22)

Information without transformation equals stagnation!

The secret of biblical discipleship is daily discipleship!

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.
Hebrews 13:8 [NIV]

*God has called us to move beyond the superficial Christianity that exists in our culture. There are **168** hours in every week. Who we choose to be during this time is entirely up to us. Our problem is that we are inconsistent, when scripture teaches us Jesus was the same day after day [Hebrews 13:8]*

"a lifetime of spiritual greatness is achieved one day at a time"

*Genesis tells us that this is exactly how Enoch lived his life as a disciple.
It's so simple, it is profound...*

Altogether, Enoch lived 365 years. Enoch walked with God;
then he was no more, because God took him away.

Genesis 5:23-24 [NIV]

*It's interesting that Enoch lived for 365 years and had a daily walk with God.
Talk about consistency, this is one of the greatest examples of daily discipleship. In fact, this pleased God so much He could no longer stand it and literally took Enoch off the face of the earth to be with Him in glory.*

Spiritual Maturity

Developing Discipleship Habits

“The greatness of a man is measured by the cause he lives for and the price he is willing to pay to achieve it.”

There are **7 life habits** that will build you as a disciple. In order to discover these life habits there is a very expensive word you are going to have to learn in order to grow in spiritual maturity. That word is not “money” or “wealth” or “riches”

The word is **time**.

This is what it is going to cost you in every one of these areas.

If you are going to **commit to growth**, your greatest sacrifice will be your time.

We live in a “fast-food” culture. We want everything now and we want it our way. We have been conditioned to expect **immediate results** with little inconvenience.

Growing in spiritual maturity is not easy. It is not convenient. However, if you are willing to sacrifice your time on a **daily basis**, you will become the disciple He has called you to be.

***“Smart people know how to spend their money...
the truly wise know how to spend their time”***

The 7 discipleship life habits

1. Time in **God’s Word**
2. Time in **Prayer**
3. Time in **Worship**
4. **Servanthood**
5. **Fellowship**
6. **Discipleship**
7. **Tithing**

Spiritual Maturity

The three “Pillars of Discipleship” Time in the Word, Prayer, and Worship

Time in God’s Word: *There are three basic ways to spend time in God’s Word.*

1. Scripture Memorization We need to memorize the Word.
2. Scripture Study We need to study the Word.
We study the Word Topically and out of Curiosity.
3. Scripture Meditation We need to meditate in the Word.

Time in Prayer: *There are three principles concerning time in Prayer.*

1. Your prayer life will create a Devotional life.
2. Your prayer life will create a Dialogue with God.
3. Your prayer life will give you Direction.

Time in Worship: *There are three principles concerning time in Worship.*

1. Your greatest purpose in life is to Worship God.
2. Whatever you give Worth to is what you worship (worth-ship)
3. We must worship God in Spirit and in Truth!

Biblical Expressions of Worship

Singing– Judges 5:3, Psalm 7:17, Psalm 9:11, Psalm 13:6, Psalm 18:49

Lifting your hands– Psalm 28:2, Psalm 63:4, Psalm 134:2

Clapping your hands– Psalm 47:1, Psalm 98:8, Isaiah 55:12

Lifting your voice/shouting– Isaiah 40:9, Isaiah 52:8, Leviticus 9:24, 1 Samuel 4:5-7

Bowing down– Genesis 24:48, 2 Chronicles 20:18, Psalm 66:4

Dancing– 2 Samuel 6:14, Ecclesiastes 3:4, Jeremiah 31:4

Spiritual Maturity

Discipleship Life Habits

Servanthood, Fellowship, Discipleship, and Tithing

Servanthood: *There are three principles concerning Servanthood.*

1. Always ask the question “Who is this for?”
2. Servanthood is not a gift of the Spirit, it’s an Attitude!
3. Humility and Obedience are the keys that unlock the door of
4. Servanthood.

Fellowship: *There are three principles concerning Fellowship.*

1. God’s blessings flow when we live together in Unity.
2. When we live in fellowship, we are an answer to Jesus’ Prayer.
- 3 Your fellowship determines your Future.

Discipleship: *There are three principles concerning Discipleship.*

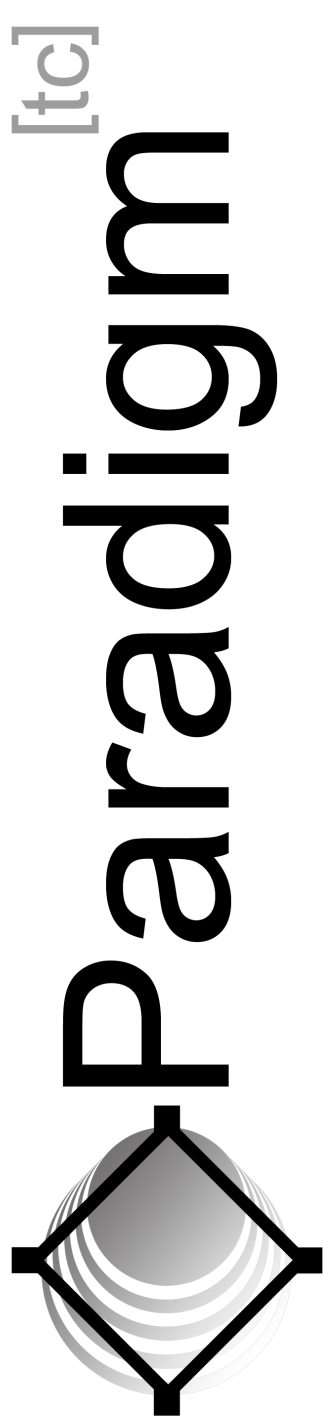
1. God alone is my Source.
2. God uses people as a Resource.
3. Give the keys to your Heart in discipleship.

Tithing: *There are three principles of a tither.*

1. God doesn't give you a harvest first,
He supplies seed for the sower.
2. Anytime your seed leaves your hand
it doesn't mean it leaves your life.
3. God gives to you to give through you.

"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written, 'He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.' Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God"

2 Corinthians 9:8-12



MINISTRY

Welcome to discovering my ministry SHAPE

Class Goal:

*I will discover who God has called me to be
in order to discover what He's called me to do.*

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but they all come from the same Spirit. There are different ways to serve the same Lord, and we can each do different things. Yet the same God works in all of us and helps us in everything we do.

The Spirit has given each of us a special way of serving others.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 [CEV]

According to scripture, there are
different spiritual gifts,
different ways of serving
different individual abilities.

Every one of us has a unique ministry **SHAPE**

SHAPE stands for
Spiritual Gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, Experience

1. Spiritual Gifts

What am I gifted to do?

I wish that all men were as I am. But each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.

1 Corinthians 7:7 [NIV]

There are essentially **two purposes** for your spiritual gifts.

First purpose: They're not for my benefit, but for others

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms

1 Peter 4:10 [NIV]

Second purpose: To produce maturity and stability in our church family

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-13 [NIV]

Welcome to discovering my ministry SHAPE

Spiritual Office/Calling:

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.

Ephesians 4:11-12 [NIV]

Gifts of the Spirit (specific):

To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

1 Corinthians 12:8-11 [NIV]

Spiritual Gifts (general):

We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

Romans 12:6-8 [NIV]

Spiritual Gifts (general):

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.

To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:8-11 NIV

Welcome to discovering my ministry SHAPE

Discovering my heart, what I love to do...

It's important to understand that just because you may be gifted in an area, you will not find complete fulfillment until you understand your heart. You can't just have the gift you must have the heart as well.

The dictionary defines the "heart" in three different ways:
It is the physical organ that pumps your blood.
It's your emotional disposition.
It's a vital driving force or impulse.

The Bible uses the heart as the center of your motivations, desires, and inclinations.

Physiologically, each of us has a unique heartbeat,
Each person has a slightly different pattern.
Likewise, each of us has a unique emotional heartbeat that races when we encounter activities, subjects, or circumstances that interest us. We instinctively feel deeply about some things and not about others

"The purposes of a man's heart are deep waters
But a man of understanding draws them out"
Proverbs 20:5

One of the most simple ways to draw out the purpose of your heart is to ask yourself
"What do I like to do?"

If I like to do something, how do I know it is part of God's plan and will for my life and ministry?

Welcome to discovering my ministry SHAPE

Discovering my abilities, what I'm good at...

It is a fact of life that we are not created with the same abilities. It was God's original plan that his body reflect a physical body with many different parts, all working for the same common goal.

And we can each do different things. Yet the same God works in all of us and helps us in everything we do.

1 Corinthians 12:6 [CEV]

God intentionally made us with different abilities.

We are able to do different things, but He enables equally.

And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom and ability, in understanding and intelligence, and in knowledge, and in all kinds of craftsmanship

Exodus 31:3 [AMP]

Many people use the excuse "I would get involved in ministry, but I just don't have the talent or the ability". Scripture teaches us that you are good at something, you've just got to find it. This is true for life and it is true for ministry.

The key is matching your ability with the right ministry

There are three major areas that can help you identify your abilities:

1. Jobs you've held throughout your life.
2. Hobbies or interests you've had throughout your life.
3. Any accomplishments you've achieved throughout your life.

The "other hand test" - Simply write your name with your non-dominant hand:

-
1. You felt uncomfortable!
 2. It took extra time and effort!
 3. You still did a lousy job!

That's what ministry is like when you operate outside of your abilities

Welcome to discovering my ministry SHAPE

Discovering my personality... who am I?

SHAPE stands for:

S.piritual Gifts
H.eart
A.bility
P.ersonality
E.xperience

Choleric

Likes authority	Takes charge
Confident	Determined
Firm	Enterprising
Enjoys challenges	Competitive
Problem solver	Productive
Bold	Purposeful
Goal driven	Adventurous
Strong willed	Independent
Self reliant	Controlling
Persistent	Action oriented

"Let's do it now!"

Melancholy

Enjoys instructions	Accurate
Consistent	Controlled
Reserved	Predictable
Practical	Orderly
Factual	Conscientious
Perfectionist	Discerning
Detailed	Analytical
Inquisitive	Precise
Persistent	Scheduled
Sensitive	Deliberate

"How was it done in the past?"

Sanguine

Enthusiastic	Takes Risks
Visionary	Motivator
Energetic	Very verbal
Promoter	Friendly
Mixes easily	Enjoys popularity
Fun-loving	Likes variety
Spontaneous	Enjoys change
Creative-new ideas	Group oriented
Optimistic	Initiator
Infectious laughter	Inspirational

"Trust me! It'll work out!"

Phlegmatic

Sensitive feelings	Loyal
Calm	Even keeled
Non-demanding	Gives in
Avoids confrontations	Indecisive
Enjoys routine	Dislikes change
Warm and relational	Dry humor
Adaptable	Sympathetic
Thoughtful	Nurturing
Patient	Tolerant

"Let's keep things the way they are."

Welcome to discovering my ministry SHAPE

Discovering my experiences, what have I been through?

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him,
who have been called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28 [NIV]

This scripture is NOT saying all things are good.

It is saying that in all things God works, even in the bad things,
for those that love Him. That means that God never wastes an experience.

No matter how big or small.

When you love God and pursue His calling, everything you've been through is
relevant because it's a process for God working out your good in both the good
and the bad! God never wastes a hurt!

The Apostle Paul penned these words from a jail cell:

Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me
has really served to advance the gospel.

Philippians 1:12 [NIV]

...I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more
severely, and been exposed to death again and again. Five times I received from the
Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was
stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea,
I have been constantly on the move.

I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own
countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country,
in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. I have labored and toiled and
have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone
without food; I have been cold and naked. Besides everything else, I face daily the
pressure of my concern for all the churches. Who is weak, and I do not feel weak?

Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?

If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.

2 Corinthians 11:23-30 [NIV]

Life's greatest messages come out of our weakness, not our strengths.

People are touched more by what you've been through, not by what you can do!

The "school of hard knocks" graduates through our experiences
and can teach what no other school can.

Understanding what you have been through and sharing that with others
will help you minister in a truly Christ-like fashion.

The reason Jesus is such an amazing savior is because of His experiences
during his sacrificial life, not only because of His sacrificial death.