

# N E → X T S T E P S

BELIEVE. BELONG.

SESSION 1



CROSSROADS  
CHURCH



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# From Our Pastor



On behalf of our entire church family, I'm so glad you've chosen to participate in *NEXT STEPS*, our two-session process that connects you to our community and gives you the opportunity to become an active partner here at Crossroads Church.

In the fall of 2006, my husband Joel and I moved our young family from Tyler, TX back to Virginia, where we were born and raised. We knew that God had given us a big dream to help people know and experience God in a personal and powerful way and then be empowered and equipped to make a difference in the lives of others.

We began with just 103 people at our first weekend service in 2008, and now 10 years later, have grown into a community far beyond what we could have ever dreamed or prayed for.

My hope is that in these two sessions, you will discover more about Crossroads and about yourself so you'll know what next step you'd like to take.

Welcome to the family!

Pastor Christina Lowery



# OUR PRAYER FOR YOU IS TO:

## 1 *Believe*

Have a relationship with Jesus.

## 2 *Belong*

Find your place in community through  
Connect Groups

## 3 *Become*

Discover your God-designed purpose

## 4 *Build*

Choose a team to serve with to build God's  
House

# Believe

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. | **ROMANS 6:23**

If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. | **ROMANS 10:9**

# Believe

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## 4 HABITS TO BUILD A HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

### 1. Bible Study & Prayer

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching ... and to prayer. | **ACTS 2:42 (NIV)**

### 2. Community with Other Believers

They devoted themselves to ... community | **ACTS 2:42 (CEB)**

### 3. Living a Spirit-Filled Life

Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the Apostles | **ACTS 2:43**

### 4. Giving of Ourselves

they sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need | **ACTS 2:45**

## BE IN COMMUNITY

Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another. | **HEBREWS 10:25**

They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. | **ACTS 2:42-47**

### WHY ARE CONNECT GROUPS IMPORTANT?

1. Connect Groups provide opportunities for: Spiritual Growth

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another. | **PROVERBS 27:17**

2. Connect Groups provide opportunities for: Community

Yes, 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)**

3. Connect Groups provide opportunities for: Prayer & Support

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results | **JAMES 5:16 (NLT)**

## **Biblical Giving**

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. | **JOHN 3:16**

### THREE WAYS WE GIVE

1. Generous with our Time.
2. Generous with our Treasure.
3. Generous with our Talents.

### WHY DO WE GIVE?

1. Giving is an act of Worship.

Abel also brought an offering, but from the firstborn animals of his herd, choice cuts of meat. God liked Abel and his offering. | **GENESIS 4:4 (MSG)**

Each of you should bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your god has blessed you. | **DEUTERONOMY 16:17 (NIV)**

2. Giving is an investment in People.

Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. | **2 CORINTHIANS 9:13 (NIV)**

3. Giving is an investment in Eternity.

Give happily to those in need, always being ready to share with others whatever God has given them. By doing this they will be storing up real treasure for themselves in heaven - it is the only safe investment for eternity! | **1 TIMOTHY 6:18-19 (TLB)**

## BIBLICAL FORMS OF GIVING:

1. **Tithe:** Giving back to God the first tenth of our income.

Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test! | **MALACHI 3:10**

### *90-Day Tithing Challenge*

Based on Malachi 3:10, the 90-Day Tithing Challenge is designed to encourage you to trust God with your finances. In fact, this is the only time in Scripture where God challenges us to TEST him:

Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test! | **MALACHI 3:10**

To help you take that step of faith, we encourage you to start tithing today through Crossroads Church. If, after 90 days, you are not convinced of the blessings that tithing adds to your life, we will refund 100% of your gifts - no questions asked.

We believe that you will be amazed to discover how much better you will live on 90% of your income with you faith in the Lord versus 100% of your income and just your own strength. When we bring our first and our best to God, He promises to bless the rest.

To take the challenge, complete the form on our **NEXT STEPS** webpage or visit: [www.mycrossroadschurch.com/90-day-challenge](http://www.mycrossroadschurch.com/90-day-challenge)

2. **Offering:** Anything we give in addition to our tithe.

You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' | **ACTS 20:35**

3. **Gift of Giving:** Someone with the gift of gifting typically has a gift of producing wealth so that they can share the overflow of that blessing for the benefit of others in need.

In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. *If it is giving, give generously.* | **ACTS 20:35**



# Belong

Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.  
| **MATTHEW 16:18**

The church, you see, is not peripheral to the world; the world is peripheral to the church. The church is Christ's body, in which he speaks and acts, by which he fills everything with his presence. | **EPHESIANS 1:23**

## OUR MISSION & STRATEGY:

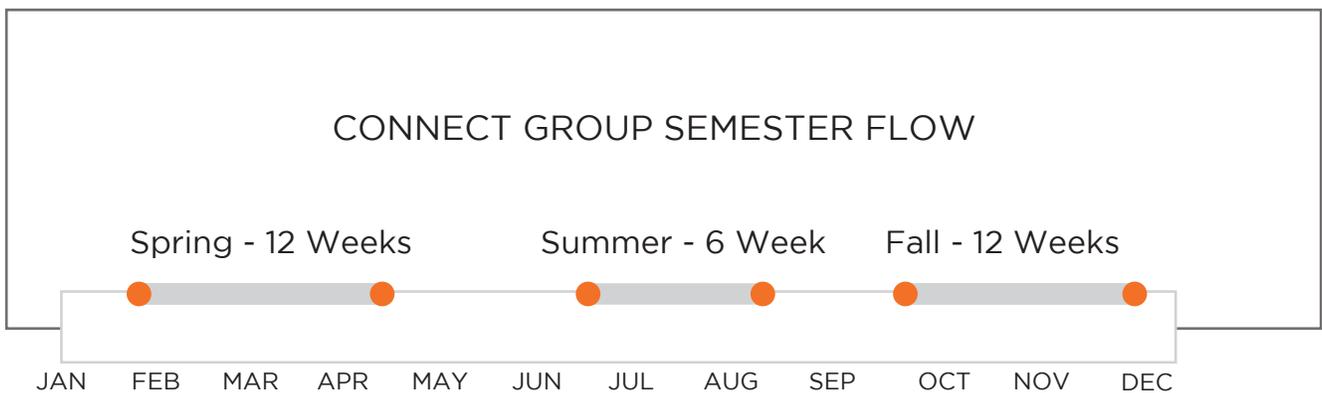
### 1. BELIEVE: SUNDAY & ONLINE SERVICES

But his father said to the servants, 'Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.' So the party began.

| **LUKE 15:22-24**

### 2. BELONG: CONNECT GROUPS

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. | **LUKE 15:22-24**



### 3. BECOME: NEXT STEPS

Let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity. | **HEBREWS 6:1**

### 4. BUILD: DREAM TEAM

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**

## **OUR LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE:**

1. We are guided by our Pastoral Team
2. We are protected by our Board of Trustees & Vision Counsel
3. We are strengthened by our Overseers

To learn more about the Vineyard Movement, visit [VineyardUSA.org](http://VineyardUSA.org)

Where there is no counsel the people fall, but in the multitudes of counselors, there is safety. | **PROVERBS 11:14**

## **SESSION 1: BELIEVE & BELONG**

Our heart is that you would take one step closer to belonging today. Because we are all at different places in our own personal journey's. Everyone's next step will look different from each other. What is your next step?

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## HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE:

The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right. It is God's way of making us well prepared at every point, fully equipped to do good to everyone. |

**2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 (TLB)**

### TO GET MORE FROM MY BIBLE:

1. I must accept its authority.

- We accept its authority by: receiving God's Word with an open heart.

The earth is filled with your love, Lord; teach me your decrees.

| **PSALM 119:64**

- We accept its authority by: Responding to God's Word with obedience.

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. | **JAMES 1:22**

2. I must absorb its truths.

- We absorb its truths by: hearing God's Word.

Faith comes from hearing the message. | **ROMANS 10:17**

- We absorb its truths by: memorizing God's Word.

Guard my words as your most precious possession. Write them down, and also keep them deep within your heart. | **PROVERBS 7:2-3**

- We absorb its truths by: meditating on God's Word.

Those who are always meditating on His Laws...are like trees along a riverbank bearing fruit...they never wither and whatever they do prospers. | **PSALM 1:2-3 (TLB)**

- We absorb its truths by: Speaking God's Word.

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

| **HEBREWS 4:12**

3. I must apply its principles.

Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

| **JOHN 13:17**

## S.O.A.P. METHOD

**SCRIPTURE** - Write down the Bible passage you'll be studying.

**OBSERVE** - Examine the text and write down what you notice.

- What jumps out to you in the passage?
- Who is it written by? Who is it written to?
- What's one thing you didn't notice before?
- What seems interesting or unusual?
- What comes before and after the text?
- Is there repetition, comparison, or contrast?

**APPLICATION** - Apply God's word to your life in a practical way. Ask, what does this scripture mean for me? Ask God, "What are you trying to teach me through this passage?"

**PRAYER** - Respond to God's word with your own words.

- Pray that the seed (what you just studied) would you fall on good soil in your heart and produce fruit
- Praise God for his attributes revealed in the passage
- Confess any sin that has come to light during this time of studying
- Thank God for His word

## HOW TO PRAY:

Always be joyful. Never stop praying. | **1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-17**

1. In my daily prayer time, I am:

- Giving devotion to God.

(Hezekiah) was successful, because everything he did...he did in a spirit of complete devotion to God. | **2 CHRONICLES 31:21 (GN)**

- Getting direction from God.

Show me the path where I should go, O Lord; point out the right road for me to walk. Lead me. | **PSALM 25:4 (LB)**

- Growing in my relationship with God.

But the godly will flourish like palm trees and grow strong like the cedars of Lebanon. For they are transplanted to the Lord's own house. They flourish in the courts of our God. | **PSALM 92:12-13**

2. In my daily prayer time, I can use the model Jesus gave to us.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one, for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. | **MATTHEW 6:9-13**

### 6 P'S OF PRAYER (BASED ON THE LORD'S PRAYER)

Begin with PRAISE. "Hallowed be your name."

Pray for the PLAN of God. "Your kingdom come, your will be done."

Ask for the PROVISION of God. "Give us today our daily bread."

Pray for God's PURIFICATION "Forgive us our debts...as we forgive."

Pray for the PROTECTION of God "Deliver us from the evil one."

Return to PRAISE "Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory."

## LIVING A SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE

I'm telling you these things while I'm still living with you. The Friend, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send at my request, will make everything plain to you. He will remind you of all the things I have told you. I'm leaving you well and whole. That's my parting gift to you. Peace. I don't leave you the way you're used to being left - feeling abandoned, bereft. So don't be upset. Don't be distraught. | **JOHN 14:25-27**

### 1. WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- The Holy Spirit is the person and the power of Almighty God who comes to live in us.

I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that he may be with you forever. | **JOHN 14:16 (NASB)**

### 2. THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- Dwells in our heart.
- Strengthens us.
- Reinforces us with power.
- Equips us to live with Christ-like character

But the fruit of the Spirit (or evidence) is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. | **GALATIANS 5:22-23 (NASB)**

## HOW DO I LIVE A SPIRIT FILLED LIFE?

A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. | **EPHESIANS 6:10-18**

1. Develop our own sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's leading.
  - FAITH is spelled R-I-S-K! - John Wimber
2. Trust the leading of the Holy Spirit by being obedient and responsive

## APPENDIX

# FAQ'S

*How can I contact the church?*

Phone: 540-412-1718

Web: [www.mycrossroadschurch.com](http://www.mycrossroadschurch.com)

Crossroads Church

4540 Plank Road, Suite B

Fredericksburg, VA 22407

*What do you offer for Students?*

Our student team is ready to meet weekly with your middle or high school student to help them believe, belong, become and build. We provide weekly connect groups and larger events to encourage your student to walk more closely in relationship with God.

*I would like to dedicate my baby. How do I sign up?*

Twice a year, we make time in our services to dedicate your babies and pray over your family. Check in with our Kids Crossing Team if you'd like to get more information or to sign up.

*I would like to get Baptized. How do I sign up?*

Baptisms are usually held at least quarterly. To let us know you'd like to be included in the next opportunity, complete digital connection form and choose that option.