

Dr. Maurice Pugh, Senior Pastor

Dear Prospective Member:

We are deeply honored that you desire to join the New Life Fellowship family. One of the most important decisions for any Christian is the selection of a church home. Because a church is entrusted with the awesome responsibility of your spiritual well being, it is crucial that the choice be made prayerfully and carefully.

It is because we respect the seriousness of this decision that we have established this new member's process. Our desire is to orient you to the mission, values, and vision of New Life Fellowship, provide you with the basic knowledge of what it means to be a growing Christian, and give you the expectations of church membership.

May God's grace guide and direct you as you experience this process of becoming a member of NLF. I look forward with great anticipation to the potential of serving you as your pastor-teacher.

Because of Grace,

Dr. Maurice Pugh

Senior Pastor

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

Please set aside some time to study and respond to the following discussion questions. If your spouse is also attending the classes, each of you must complete a separate lesson. Each participant is asked to bring a Bible and completed lesson assignments.

CLASS TIME

The Orientation will be divided into two (2) Sunday classes each will begin at 1:30 pm. During the second Sunday class, we will take your picture for the church administrative data base and answer questions about your selection of ministry.

CLASS ATTENDANCE

At the beginning of each class, please check-in so that we may have a record of your attendance and provide you with any special instructions. Completed homework assignments will be checked at the beginning of the 2nd class. Make-up classes will only be provided in cases of emergency. You must participate in all class sessions to be granted official membership.

We look forward to making the New Members process a wonderful part of your spiritual journey at New Life Fellowship.

If you have any questions, please email groups@nlife fellowship.org

NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP
MEMBERSHIP ORIENTATION

AGENDA

(Session 1)

1:30-1:50

WELCOME/SESSION OVERVIEW

- Check in/Childcare
- Refreshments
- Instructions for Completing Data Sheet
- Meet and Greet

1:50-2:30

MISSION/VISION/VALUES/Framework

2:30-2:40

BREAK

2:40-3:15

CONGREGATION AND DOCTRINAL OVERVIEW

- Beliefs
- Membership
- Elders and Leadership

3:15-3:30

WRAP UP/NEXT STEP

NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP
MEMBERSHIP ORIENTATION

AGENDA

(Session 2)

1:30-1:50

WELCOME/OVERVIEW

- Check in/Childcare
- Refreshments
- Ice Breaker

1:50-2:10

ADMINISTRATIVE OVERVIEW

2:10-2:20

BREAK

2:20-3:00

HOMEWORK

3:00-3:15

LIFE GROUPS

3:15-3:30

WRAPUP/NEXT STEPS

SESSION 1





MISSION STATEMENT

Inviting People to Follow Christ

(Matthew 28:18-20)



VISION STATEMENT

To become a diverse community of spiritually mature believers committed to seeing lives changed with the good news of Jesus Christ. (Acts 2)

We affirm diversity and unity in the community of faith (Acts 2:5) – We value a church that affirms, embraces and seeks unity and racial, cultural and economic diversity in the community of faith. (Eph. 2: 14-16; Rev. 5:9)

We cultivate transparent & genuine relationships (Acts 2:42-46) – We value genuine relationships where people are accepted as they grow together, pray for one another and encourage each other to be more like Christ. (Eph. 4:14-16) Transparency produces transformation.

We influence society through local & global outreach (Acts 2:39) – We value sharing the good news and good works of Christ to influence social justice, alleviate human suffering and realize human equality (Luke 4:18-19; Isaiah 1:17).

We shepherd as servant leaders (Acts 2:42- 43) – We value leadership that reflects Christ's heart for shepherding in loving servitude (Mark 10:41-45; John 13:4-5)

We share Christ through relational evangelism (Acts 2:40, 43) – We value sharing Christ through personal relationships. We seek to equip and encourage believers to be witnesses for Christ every day, everywhere, and to meet unbelievers where they are by walking alongside them in their spiritual journey towards Christ. (Luke 5:27-32)

We serve with our spiritual gifts and build teams (Acts 2:42-43) – We value believers serving one another in ways that allow them to use their spiritual gifts, according to their divine design and personal passions, and in the context of ministry teams. (1 Cor. 12; 1 Peter 4:10-11)

We exalt God through authentic, creative & blended worship (Acts 2:47) – We value God-exalted worship that embodies creativity, diversity, unity and authenticity in style, presentation and cultural representation. (John 4:23-24; Rev. 5:9)

We love, learn and live the Scriptures (Acts 2:42) – We value teaching the Scriptures with clarity and conviction. We seek to help believers grow in their love of Scripture; we equip them to independently nourish their souls from Scripture; and we encourage believers to live in obedience to Scripture. (Psalm 1; Psalm 19; Psalm 119)



new life fellowship

BIBLICAL MISSION FOR THE CHURCH

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

-Matthew 28:18-20



NLF MISSION STATEMENT

Invite People to Follow Christ

Great Commission

Reach the Lost and Build Believers



ACTS 2:41-47

“So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”



ACTS 2:41-47

“Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.”



ACTS 2:41-47

“And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.”



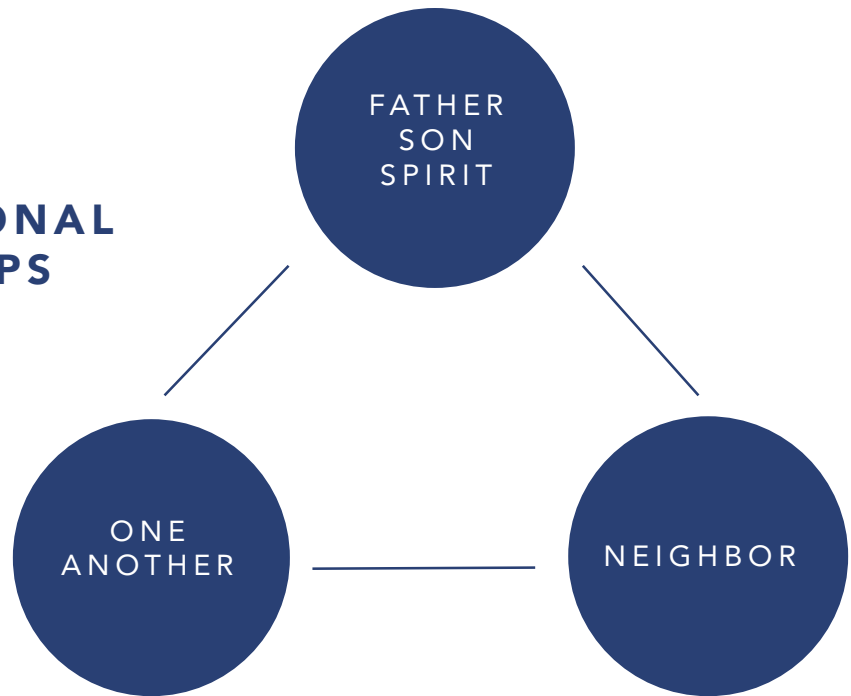
ACTS 2 VISION

Vision:

To become a **diverse** community
of **spiritually mature believers** committed
to seeing
people's lives **changed** with the
good news of **Jesus Christ**.



TRANSFORMATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS



Acts 2 Community

What was the strength of the Acts 2 church? **Community**

This passage is our standard, our evaluation of whether we are reaching the goal in our church.

Is our church fostering and experiencing the characteristics of the Acts 2 church?

Here are the areas to focus on:

Fellowship: The core of the Christian Life is fellowship with God, authentic relationship with One Another

Fellowship looks like:

- Everyone is involved
- Taking time for interaction
 - We don't go right into the curriculum, program, or meeting when everyone shows up but allow time for conversation and relationships to grow.
- We are connecting with each other outside our life or ministry groups
 - Kids from our ministry had a big baseball game last weekend and several members of our ministry group went to the game to support him.
- Everyone knows everyone's name
- We are making a point to know and meet the personal needs of others
 - One of our members' husband had to spend three days at the hospital so we all took turns taking care of their kids.
- We eat together
- We are genuine with each other
- We consider all our possessions to be available for anyone that may need something.
 - One of the families in our ministry was moving last week, so we came with our trucks to help them move all their items to their new home.
- Unity--all things in common
 - We realize, regardless of our backgrounds, Christ has brought us together and we all share in His salvation.

Acts 2 Community

Teaching: To instruct each other in the incredible truth of God's Word

Teaching looks like:

- We teach them Bible
We use the Bible as we go through the curriculum or gather for a meeting
- We stay on track with the curriculum
- Our teaching cultivates everyone's spiritual journey
We ask questions that move people to understand God's word better
- We are all open to learning, allowing discussions and questions. As the teacher I provide challenging, reflective, and thought-provoking insights every week.
This last week I challenged everyone to memorize the verse from the lesson.
- We allow ourselves to be authentic with each other as we learn.
A couple shared struggles they were having with the in-laws.

Prayer: The prayer is our communication with God personally and corporately.

Prayer looks like:

- We take prayer requests
- We rejoice in answered prayer
We prayed that one of our members could find a job and we rejoiced when the Lord provided.
- We uplift the needs of others during a time of prayer together
We pray not just for those in our groups but for those in our church, jobs, families, etc...
- We challenge our members to pray throughout the week
- We check up on prayer requests throughout the week
- We have agreed to pray for someone that we know that doesn't know the Lord
A friend of mine at work, Charlie, doesn't know the Lord and I have committed myself to pray for him and opportunity to witness to him.

Worship: Is to fulfill our creative duty in proclaiming that the Lord is great and worthy of all our praise.

Worship looks like:

- We sing praises to the Lord
- We worship the Lord in service with our group, team, or ministry members
- We have created an atmosphere of worship
- We worship as a group in breaking of bread
We celebrate new babies, healing, accomplishments...etc.
- We celebrate with our members in their blessings
We celebrated together when the Lord provided a new child to our family.

Evangelism: Is to proclaim the truth of the Gospel in word and works to those who don't know Christ.

Evangelism looks like:

- We pray as a group of believers for those who don't know the Lord.
- We are committed to serving at least one time each quarter in an outreach project in our communities.
- We are receiving training to know at least one method of sharing the gospel using clear scripture verses.
We all decided to learn the Romans Road to salvation.
- We invite our unbelieving friends to church or invite them to an opportunity to visit our group or ministry activity.



KNOW



GROW



SOW



GO



NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP

F R A M E W O R K

New Life Fellowship's ministry framework is designed to guide us in fulfilling our mission of:

Inviting people to know and imitate Christ



KNOW

Knowing God is the environment that attracts people from various spiritual backgrounds and connects them to God. It is a friendly and safe place where unbelievers can explore spiritual matters and believers are able to experience a fresh encounter with God.

We demonstrate the Know step through our Sunday ministries:

- Relevant Messages
- Welcome Team
- Praise & Music
- Discover New Life
- Fine Arts
- Harvest Sundays
- Children
- Youth



GROW

Growing in Faith is the environment that assists believers in their spiritual growth towards Christlike maturity. It seeks to help believers know and live out spiritual practices in the context of authentic relationships.

We demonstrate the Grow step through:

- New Members Orientation
- Pathways Bible Institute
- Life Groups
- Spiritual growth classes
- Baptism
- Men's Fellowship
- Women's Fellowship
- Marriage Fellowship
- Single's Fellowship



SOW

S.O.W. (Serving Others Well) in Ministry is the environment that helps believers discover their God-given spiritual gifts and equip them to serve faithfully fruitfully in church ministries.

We demonstrate the SOW step through:

- Serving on a NLF ministry team
- Spiritual Gifts Assessment
- Ministry Fair



GO

Go Share Christ is the environment that trains, encourages, and creates opportunities for believers to be a living witness wherever God has placed them.

We demonstrate the GO step of our strategy through:

- Share & Care Day
- Impact Cards
- Evangelism Training
- Evangelistic Prayer
- Hope for the Holidays
- World Missions



I will meditate on Your precepts And regard Your ways. - Psalm 119:15

The **S.O.A.P.** *Self Feeding* **DAILY** **Devotional Plan**

S.O.A.P. stands for Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer.

It is a method of Bible journaling developed by Pastor Wayne Cordeiro. It's a great way to get more out of reading your Bible, and allows you to record your thoughts, emotions and the revelation you receive from God's Word.

As beneficial as the bible is, you only benefit from it based on what you do with it

- DrMauricePugh

Getting Started

- 1. Time and Place:** Find a quiet time and space to read your Bible, preferably at the same time each day. Many people find that reading scripture in the morning helps get their day off to a focused start.
- 2. What to Read:** You can follow a reading plan through the entire Bible, or the New Testament. Or you can select one book of the Bible to work through at a time. If you don't know where to start, pick a Gospel (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John), and then work your way through it and on through the rest of the New Testament.
- 3. Use a Journal:** You can use a paper journal, or electronically record your daily entries.
- 4. Time Breakdown:** 1/3 Bible - 1/3 Journal - 1/3 Prayer



I will walk in freedom, for I have devoted myself to your commandments. - Psalm 119:45

S.O.A.P.

Scripture

Read meditatively and thoughtfully through a portion of Scripture. Pick a verse or two that stood out to you and write it in your journal.

Observation

Now write some observations about the verse(s) or passage. What is this passage or verse saying? About God? About people? How is Christ revealed in this?

Application

Now write a few sentences on how this passage applies to your life. Is there truth about God that you are to believe? A promise to receive? Is the Holy Spirit convicting you of something you need to do or stop doing in light of God's truth?

What specific principle are you challenged to practice based on Scripture, prayer, and reflection? Be doers of the word and not merely hearers. (James 1:22)

Prayer

Now write out a prayer to God in response to this Scripture. This is a way to turn God's Word to you back to Him. Be honest and express your heart to Him. God always listens and He delights in your prayers. (Psalm 34:15; Proverbs 15:8)

*O how I love Your law!
It is my meditation all the day.
- Psalm 119:97*

Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You. - Psalm 119: 9-11

We Believe In...

The Godhead. We believe that the Godhead exists eternally in three persons – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They are co-equal, co-eternal and one God. (**Gen 1:1-3; 26; John 1:1; Matt 3:16-17; Heb. 1:1-3**)

The Person and Work of the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that Jesus Christ came into this world that He might reveal God to men, fulfill prophecy, and become Savior of the lost. (**Phil 2:5-8; Luke 19:10; Matt 5:17-18**)

We further believe that He died on the cross for the sins of the world, was buried and arose from the dead according the scriptures. (**1 Cor. 15:3-4; John 20:20**)

The Scriptures. We believe that all “Scripture is given by inspiration of God” and is designed for our practical instruction. (**2 Timothy 3:16; Rom. 15:4**)

Salvation Only through Jesus Christ. We believe that the new birth of the believer comes only through faith in Christ and not according to any measure of human works, such as confession, baptism, prayer, or faithful service. (**John 3:16-19; Rom. 1:16-17; Eph 2:8-9**).

The Holy Spirit. We believe that the Holy Spirit, indwells in every believer at the moment of conversion and His baptism unites all believers to Christ in one body. There is no subsequent baptism of the spirit. (**John 14:16-17; 16:7-15; Eph. 4:4-6; 30**)

Eternal Security. We believe that all true believers everywhere, once saved are eternally secure, sealed by the Holy Spirit and shall be kept forever. (**John 5:24; 10:27-30; Eph. 1:13-14**)

The Christian Walk. We believe that we are called to live Holy, empowered by the indwelling Holy Spirit, so that we do not fulfill the lust and desires of the flesh. (**John 14:16-17; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; Gal. 5:16-23**)

The Christian's Service. We believe that all believers are endowed with one gift. While there is a diversity of gifts, each believer is energized by the same Spirit, and each is called to utilize their gift to serve faithfully and glorify God. (**1 Peter 4:10; Eph. 4:11; 1 Cor. 12:4-11 Rom 12:6**)

Membership

Membership is available to anyone who has placed their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and is the only Provision given for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

The general responsibilities to be considered an active member in good standing in this church, are the following:

- Members regularly and consistently give, serve, grow, and support the activities of this Church.
- Members **must** serve in at least one ministry area.
- Members are advised to participate in at least 2 of the 3 annual Life Group sessions.

Management of the Church

Board of Elders

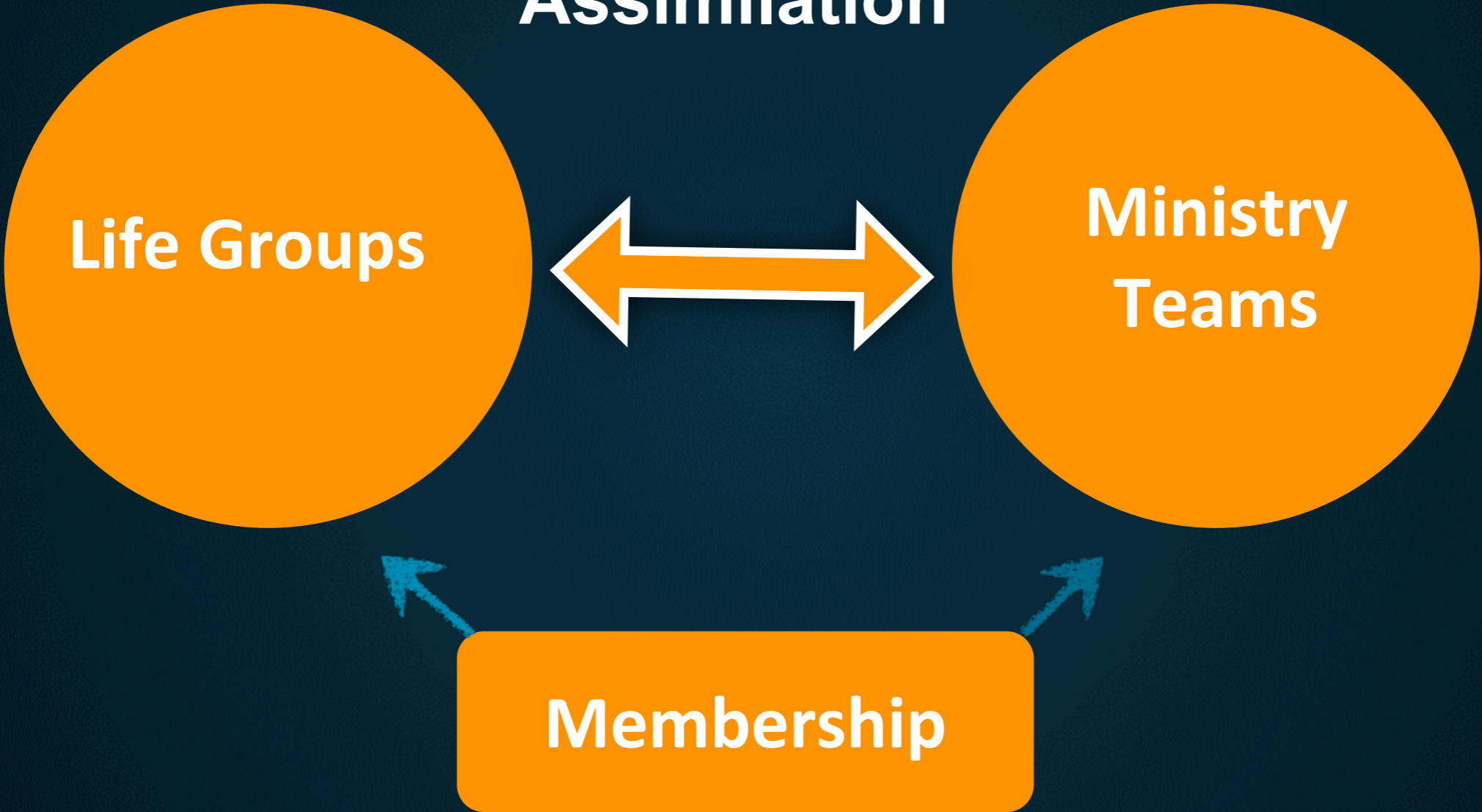
The power to manage and govern the overall business, policy and spiritual affairs of the Church is vested in a group of godly, mutually submissive men of equal authority call the Board of Elders.

The Board of Elders at New Life Fellowship

- Have been found to possess the qualifications as found in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1
- Shall by consist of no less than 3 and no more than 15, serving up to 5 consecutive years
- The Senior Pastor serves as the Chairman of the Board of Elders

These and all other governing ordinances can be found in New Life Fellowship's By-Laws, located at the back of this membership packet

Assimilation



**NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP
MEMBERSHIP ORIENTATION**

SPIRITUAL GIFTS ASSESSMENT

We are created by God to love and serve Him, as well as other people. How we individually accomplish this purpose may look different from person to person based on the gifts and abilities God has given us. To help you better understand the spiritual gift(s) that God has given you, we have made available an online spiritual gifts assessment. To access this assessment go to

<https://spiritualgiftstest.com/spiritual-gifts-test-adult-version/>

and follow the instructions.