



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](mailto:groups@nlife fellowship.org)

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 2



# SALVATION

## The Need for Salvation

1. What does the Bible say about humanity's spiritual condition:
  - a. Romans 3:9 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Romans 3:10 \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Romans 3:11 \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Romans 3:23 \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Ephesians 2:1 \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the consequence of sin:
  - a. Genesis 2:17; Romans 6:23 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Isaiah 59:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_

## The Provision of Salvation

1. What is the gift of God? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Romans 6:23)
  - a. What does "a gift" generally mean?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What does the gift of God mean for "sinners?"  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the role of Jesus as the provision of salvation (1 Corinthians 15:3)?
3. What made Jesus qualified to be the provision for our salvation (2 Corinthians 5:21)?

### **The Process of Salvation**

1. What must a person do to become a Christian (Romans 10:9):
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ in your heart
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ died for our sins and was raised from the dead
  - c. Then you will be \_\_\_\_\_.
2. To sum it up, Ephesians 2:8-9 says: We are \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_ and not according to \_\_\_\_\_.



# BAPTISM

When people consider the topic of Baptism, two categories of questions are often asked. The first is a very basic one: “What is the spiritual significance of baptism?” The second has to do with traditions from the past—specifically, pre-conversion baptism. The issue in that case is, “Why be baptized as an adult believer when I was baptized as a baby?”

## **Why Baptize?**

1. Baptism was commanded by the Lord Jesus Christ: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19). Baptism is the means by which disciples of Christ are identified.
2. Baptism was practiced by the early church. In the book of Acts, believers expressed publicly, through the act of baptism, their inward decision and intent to follow the Lord Jesus Christ. In Acts, it is evident that the act of baptism came after an individual’s decision to trust Christ for salvation (Acts 2:28,41; 8:12; 10:47-48). Baptism can’t give a person anything, spiritually speaking. It can signify something that has already happened.

## **Who Should Be Baptized?**

Believers/Disciples—The Apostles were commanded to “make disciples of all nations, baptizing them...” One must have the heart to be a follower of Christ. Individuals who trust Christ as their own personal Savior should be baptized.

1. Anyone who has not been baptized since becoming a Christian.
2. Any Christian who has never clearly understood the meaning of baptism, even though they may have been baptized previously
3. Any Christian who desires to recommit their life to Christ



## What Does Baptism Mean?

The Apostle Paul says in Romans 6:3-4, "Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore, we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so too we might walk in newness of life."

1. Baptism is a public declaration of the believer's identification with Jesus Christ, death, burial, and resurrection.
  - a. Death – placed into the water, "Baptized into His death (Romans 6:3).
  - b. Burial – submerged, "Buried with Him through baptism into death (Romans 6:4).
  - c. Resurrection – brought up out of water, as Christ was raised from the dead...so we too might walk in newness of life.
  
2. Baptism is a testimony to a new life.
  - a. New direction and purpose for living.
  - b. Complete trust in God to direct your life.
  - c. Courage and excitement to share Jesus with others.
  - d. Controlled and directed by the Spirit of God.

## Additional Notes

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### WHY MEMBERSHIP?

1. Of what church was Phoebe identified as a servant? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Romans 16:1)
2. When did the believers gather together? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Acts 20:7)

### THE ACTIVITIES OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

There are some specific spiritual activities that are conducted among believers through the context of the local church:

1. Hebrews 10:25 \_\_\_\_\_
2. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 \_\_\_\_\_
3. 1 Timothy 4:13 \_\_\_\_\_
4. 1 Peter 4:10 \_\_\_\_\_
5. Acts 2:47 \_\_\_\_\_

6. Acts 12:5\_\_\_\_\_
7. 1 Corinthians 16:1-2\_\_\_\_\_
8. Romans 1:15-16\_\_\_\_\_, Acts 4:4\_\_\_\_\_

### **Summary on Stewardship**

What percentage is common to the following biblical stories of giving?

Genesis 14:18-20\_\_\_\_\_

Leviticus 27:30, 32\_\_\_\_\_

Malachi 3:8-10\_\_\_\_\_

What the Bible says about the Stewardship(Giving) of Christians. See if you can summarize with one word.

1. Gener\_\_\_\_\_ly-They know Christ has given all to them, and they know Christ owns all they have (2 Cor. 8:2-4; 9:6).
2. Propor\_\_\_\_\_ly-They try to give as high a percentage of their income as possible, recognizing the tithe(10%) as a benchmark (1 Cor. 16:2).
3. Sacri\_\_\_\_\_ly-They give above and beyond (2 Cor. 8:3-5).
4. Will\_\_\_\_\_ly-They did not give out of force or manipulation (2 Cor. 8:11-12).
5. Reg\_\_\_\_\_ly-As resources flow in, they offer the "first-fruits" back to God, honoring Him before any others (1 Cor. 16:2).
6. Chee\_\_\_\_\_ly-Knowing that God sees the heart, they don't just give grudgingly, they give their offering as unto God Himself-joyfully (2 Cor. 9:7).
7. Exc\_\_\_\_\_ly-Paul commands that his readers excel at giving. (2 Cor. 8:7).

Christian financial stewardship is the management of personal resources in a manner that reflects the love and generosity of God. It includes the giving to honor God as an act of worship, offering a a portion of one's financial resources to the work of the church. Giving funds to the God-given mission of the church to preach the gospel and feed the flock. Such giving reflects the believer's worship, faith, obedience, and love for God, who is the Source of salvation and Giver of all good things. (1Peter 4:10; 1 Corinthians 9:1-14; 2 Corinthians 9:6-11)

## THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

**Membership at New Life Fellowship expects a commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ and this local church in the following areas:**

1. To \_\_\_\_\_ with respect to your salvation (1 Peter 2:2). God desires for each member to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ; this growth effort requires one to prioritize moments and opportunities for spiritual growth such as: prayer, bible study, and worship.
2. To \_\_\_\_\_ in the church (1. Peter 4:10). God had gifted each member into the body of Christ with a spiritual gift to be used to serve each other and bring glory and honor to God.
3. To \_\_\_\_\_ support the ministries of the church (1 Corinthians 16:1). God provides monetarily to his saints but asks that believers give cheerfully, willfully, and generously to support ministries of the church such as outreach efforts, oversees mission, members in need, etc.
4. To \_\_\_\_\_ others into a relationship with Christ or visit the Church (John 4:29). God anticipates that Christians will regularly and enthusiastically tell others about His Son Jesus Christ and/or invite people to church service to hear about God's love for them.
5. To \_\_\_\_\_ authentic and genuine relationships with other Christians (Ecclesiastes 5:9-10). God created people not to be isolated from one another, but for companionship and relationship. True spiritual growth happens in the context of believers who gather together for prayer, study and accountability.



*"Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart"*

*-Acts 2:46*

# Life Groups

## The Philosophy of Life Groups

Life Groups serve as a weekly gathering of individuals for the purpose of connecting to form friendships, caring for one another, growing spiritually, and contributing to the ministry of the church. Groups will meet for approximately 12 weeks at a time (3 sessions per calendar year). In Life Groups, individuals can discover and develop their spiritual gifts, meet needs, heal the hurts, kindle hope, and build their faith. Our Life Groups provide the infrastructure for Christians to grow, be nurtured, develop leadership, and extend the kingdom of God.

NLF's Life Groups embrace the **'The Church of Small Group'** as a model. Life Groups are NOT merely just another thing that we do. Life Groups are what we are. Virtually all of our ministries operate through a small group environment. Essentially, the purpose of the Life Groups is to build the church as a community. Our model sees the larger community as a network of small communities that develop people in Christ. Therefore, our Life Group concept penetrates EVERY area of the church.

The Bible places an emphasis on 'fellowship'. God did not create us to live life alone. We were created for relationship (Gen. 2:18). A community is the gathering of people with a shared common experience and or interest. The Christian community is extremely important as it relates to the 2 primary functions of the church (evangelism & growth). We are united by our faith in Jesus Christ and to others who also have placed their trust in Jesus Christ. The element that ties these 2 areas together is called 'fellowship' (1John 1:1-4) So the Christian community can be defined as:

*"What God has called the church to be. Building relational, transforming gatherings, where people are experiencing oneness with God and oneness with one another. An assembly that is so satisfying, so unique, and so compelling that they create a thirst to a watching world" [Andy Stanley]*

## What is a Life Group?

Life Groups exists to provide opportunities for individuals to connect with others, through common areas of interests, with the overall goal of transforming the way people think, behave, and relate to others, thereby becoming true followers of Jesus Christ.

A Life Group is a gathering of people with a commonality. The various groups are formed out of similar interests, the same season of life, and or a spiritual growth pursuit. So, within these areas, our life groups focus on creative and engaging ways for our members to:

- Come to Love Christ
- Learning the Bible
- Learning to live out the Scriptures
- Addressing stronghold while Pursuing holiness
- Serving their community
- Witnessing to their neighbors
- Being known and loved, within the context of community

**Life Groups are:**

A means by which individuals can CONNECT with one another

A place where CHRIST-LIKE development can occur through spiritual growth

An opportunity to CARE and to be CARED by one another

A means for CONSISTENT accountability

**Life Groups are NOT:**

**A CLIQUE**--- Life Groups are a diverse group of people who gather together around common interests and welcome others to participate.

**A CLASS**--- Life Groups meet in relaxed environments for the purpose of sharing and growing together.

**A CLUB**--- No matter who you are, you are special, and you won't stand alone. Everyone is welcomed and has a 'seat at the table'

**A COUNSELING Group**--- When issues are shared, Life Groups offer Scripture, Prayer, and Support.

“They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

[ Acts 2:42 ]

**NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP  
MEMBERSHIP ORIENTATION  
NEXT STEPS**

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New members are presented to the church and given the right hand of fellowship.

Your Right Hand of Fellowship Date is: \_\_\_\_\_

**RIGHT NOW MEDIA**

Right Now Media is a video resource library containing over 15,000 Bible Studies. NLF gives this resource to our members as a free gift to help equip them for ministry and to live a Christ-like life.

To access Right Now Media go to <https://www.rightnow.org/Account/Invite/nlf>



**CONTACT INFORMATION/  
SERVICE TIMES**

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**New Life Fellowship**

**Address:**

201 E. Sublett Rd.  
Arlington, TX 76018

**Phone:**

817-469-8224

(enter **ext. 304** for information concerning membership, serving in ministry or discipleship. Mon.-Thur. 8:30a-3:00p)

**Fax:**

817-469-1394

**WEB**

[www.nlifefellowship.org](http://www.nlifefellowship.org)

**WORSHIP EXPERIENCE INFORMATION**

**Saturday**

6:00pm-7:00pm

**Sunday**

8:30am to 9:30am

10:00am to 11:15am

11:45am to 1:00pm



## **KIDZLIFE** (CHILDREN):

### **Saturday**

6:00p-7:00pm

### **Sunday**

8:30am to 9:30am

10:00am to 11:15am

11:45am to 1:00pm

Kidzlife includes ages Infants through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.  
Kidzlife check-in begins 30 minutes before each service.

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## **Youth Ministry**

### **Sunday**

8:30am to 9:30am -High School

10:00am to 11:15am – Middle School (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade)

11:45am to 1:00pm – High School

### **Wednesday**

#### **KICKBACK**

7:00pm-8:15pm