

Belong

THE JOURNEY



 CONNECT

 GROW

 SERVE

 HOLY SPIRIT

 PARTNER

GROWING IN JESUS

Spiritual growth starts when we decide to be fully devoted to Jesus. That devotion changes our passions, decision-making, the way we think, and the way we relate to other people. Our entire life should begin to look more and more like Jesus! As disciples of Jesus you are called to help others grow. **WE ARE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS WHO HELP OTHERS FOLLOW JESUS.**

“Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.” 1 Peter 2:2

“We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing.” 2 Thessalonians 1:3

FIRST STEPS OF FAITH



BECOMING A FOLLOWER OF JESUS

Every person has to make their own personal decision to believe in Jesus and follow him as his disciple. That relationship begins with acknowledging that you are a sinner and by receiving Jesus as your savior. This is what the Bible defines as being “born again.” John 3:3,16; Romans 10:9-10.



FIRST STEPS FOR NEW BELIEVERS

1. Conversations About Faith class: Is a 7-week class designed to help you take your first steps in faith. And answer questions, like What is salvation? How do I pray? How do I understand the Bible?

2. Purple Book: Is a workbook designed to help a person read the scriptures and grow in the basic truths of our faith.



Water baptism is the first step a believer takes. It is the outward symbol of our decision and commitment to follow Jesus Christ as Lord. Those who have repented of their sins are instructed to be baptized. Acts 2:38-40; Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Romans 6:2-5.



SIGNUP FOR WATER BAPTISM

- www.petra.church/baptism
- call the church office 717.354.5394
- Baptisms in March, July, November

HABITS THAT LEAD TO TRANSFORMATION

The Bible tells us to “be imitators of God.” Growing into the character of Jesus is a lifetime journey. Here are five essential habits that every believer needs to practice regardless of how old you are, or how long you’ve been following Jesus. These God-focused habits help us develop our relationship with God; and help our attitudes, thoughts, and habits to transform into a godly shape. John 14:21; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 5:1.



Bible



Community



Prayer



Worship



Sharing



HABIT OF READING & STUDYING YOUR BIBLE

TRUTH ABOUT THE BIBLE

1. The 66 books of the Bible are the perfectly inspired revelation of God's character and his plan of salvation through Jesus Christ for all peoples of the earth. 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
2. The Bible is the ultimate source of truth against which all beliefs and practices should be measured. It contains principles and patterns that give guidelines for church communities. Titus 1:9; 1 Thessalonians 2:13.
3. By regularly reading and applying God's truths from the Bible the believer's life is transformed. Therefore, the Bible should be read, studied, and practiced regularly by the individual and the community. Hebrews 4:12; Psalms 19:7.

HOW TO GROW IN THE BIBLE

1. Join a Petra Group such as a Bible study
2. Read the Bible daily
3. Use the Bible devotional plan on the Petra App.
4. Watch *Right Now Media* Bible study videos www.petra.church/rightnowmedia



HABIT OF INTENTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS AND COMMUNITY

1. We are to be committed to meeting together. Hebrews 10:24-25
2. Community is how we best love and care for one another. John 13:33-35
3. Community is how the body grows and builds itself up in love. Ephesians 4:11-16
4. Community is where we practice serving one another. Mark 10:43-44; Ephesians 6:7-8

HOW TO GROW IN RELATIONSHIPS

1. Join a Petra Group
2. Join a mentoring program
3. Invite people for a coffee or a meal
4. We talk more in BELONG Week 1 about connecting in relationships



HABIT OF PRAYING REGULARLY

TRUTH ABOUT PRAYER

1. Prayer is the act of heartfelt communication with God: the offering of adoration, confession, requests, and thanksgiving to God on behalf of you or others, both in private and public settings.
2. It is through consistent prayer that our personal relationship with God is developed. 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18; Luke 11:1-13; John 15:4-9.
3. It is when we pray with other believers that the Church has power and authority to release the power of God into our communities and see transformation. Matthew 18:18-20; Acts 4:31; Ezekiel 22:30; Isaiah 56:7; Ephesians 6:12.

HOW TO GROW IN PRAYER

1. Practice praying daily
2. Attend our Eastgate House of Prayer services Tuesday nights from 7-9:00 P.M. or one of our other prayer groups.
3. Find someone who will pray with you one hour a week.



HABIT OF WORSHIPING PASSIONATELY

Worship is the passionate expression of love and devotion to God for who he is and all he has done. God's ultimate desire for, and life's ultimate aim, is to love God with all of our heart, and mind, and breath and strength. Deuteronomy 6:4-6; Psalms 9:1-2; 111:1; 119:2,10; 138:1; John 4:23; Ephesians 5:18-19; Psalms 103:1; 117:1-2; 150:6; Mark 12:30.

Here are some of the ways we see people express worship in the Bible.

- singing. Psalms 47:6-7; Colossians 3:16
- shouting. Psalms 66:1; 78:65; Isaiah 42:9-12
- clapping. Psalms 47:1; 98:4-8; Isaiah 55:12-13
- kneeling. Psalms 95:6; 1 Kings 8:54; Ephesians 3:14
- standing. Psalms 134:1; Nehemiah 9:5
- lifting of our hands. Psalms 28:2; 119:48; 134:2; 1 Timothy 2:8
- our lifestyle. Romans 12:1-2; Isaiah 58



HABIT OF SHARING LIFE GENEROUSLY WITH OTHERS

1. We share our talents and abilities in ways that bless one another.
2. We share our insight, wisdom, and experiences with each other.
3. We share our hearts vulnerably.
4. We share our faith with people who don't know Jesus.
5. We invest money into people in need.

HOW TO SHARE GENEROUSLY

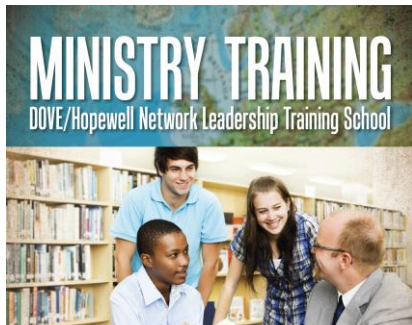
1. Give time or money to a non-profit organization
2. Get involved on a ministry team at Petra
3. Tithe to the church
4. Mentor someone
5. Be engaged in a Small Group Community
6. We talk more in BELONG-Week 3 about Serving God's Mission

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



www.petra.church/joinateam/

Get involved in a ministry. Leadership emerges as you serve faithfully in an area you're passionate about. Whether that is men's ministry, leading a Petra Group, outreach events, prayer groups, regional care, ministering to children, youth, etc.



www.dcfi.org/training/
or email brianf@petra.church

The Dove Hopewell Leadership Training School helps prepare students for ministry both in the church and marketplace. The goal is to provide practical Biblical training as well as Holy Spirit impartation and activation.



www.petra.church/ministryinternship/

The Ministry Internship gives people exposure to over 200 hours of observation, and ministry practice. It offers a variety of ministry modules and is fully compatible to most academic programs.