

## Who we are

New Life Church was started in 1979 with the burden of reconciling lost people to Jesus and restoring God's broken world to wholeness. Today we continue that mission by helping people experience New Life in Christ.

## What we believe

New Life Church is affiliated with the Christian Reformed Church in North America ([www.crcna.org](http://www.crcna.org)), a 150 year old Protestant denomination that emphasizes the centrality of the Bible and the all-powerful care of God.

What we believe we share with the Christian church around the world and God's people throughout the ages. We also speak with a reformed accent. The Heidelberg Catechism, written in 1563, provides a warm-hearted and personalized confession of our faith:

### ***Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?***

*A. That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.*

*He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.*

*He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven;*

*In fact, all things must work together for my salvation.*

*Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.*

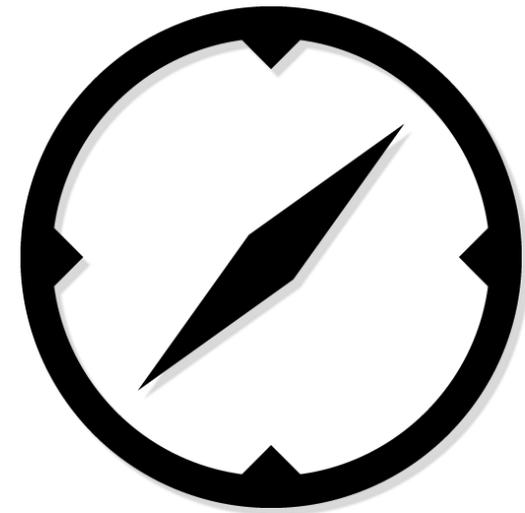
***– Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 1***



2050 FM 2920  
Spring, TX 77388  
[www.newlifecrc.org](http://www.newlifecrc.org)

*Revised  
Fall 2016*

# Compass Guide



## Helping each other take our next steps following Jesus

# Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
Getting Started.....	2
What do you need?.....	2
Invitation / Challenge.....	2
Rhythms.....	3
Values .....	4
Habits.....	5
Jesus calls us .....	5
Getting started.....	5
Measuring Your Progress .....	6
Instructions.....	8
What is Your Next Step? .....	9

# What is Your Next Step?

You can take your next step by answering these four questions:

## What is God saying to me?

---

---

---

## What am I going to do about it?

---

---

---

## How can New Life help me?

---

---

---

## How can I help others?

---

---

---

# Instructions

## Listen to God



The life of discipleship begins with listening to God. We reflect on God's word and how his Spirit is prompting us to follow Jesus.

Take time to reflect on this Compass Guide and what got stirred up in you. Talk about this with others, and then discern your next step.

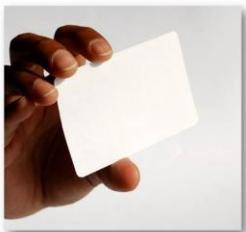
## Hold yourself accountable

At New Life, we try to make disciples the way Jesus did. We believe his approach was one of "low control, high accountability." In other words, we don't tell you what God is saying to you (low control). But we do want you to do what he calls you to do (high accountability).

Here are several ways to grow and hold yourself accountable:

- **S**tep to the edge of your comfort zone and take one more step.
- **J**oin a group so that leader can care for you and challenge you.
- **C**ommit to filling out this Compass Guide at least once a year.
- **F**ollow through on your next steps.

## Turn in your Next Steps Card



Answer the questions on the following page and keep this Compass Guide so you can follow up on your next steps. But also, help us help you! ***Fill out the enclosed Next Steps Card and turn this in to the church*** so we can support you, encourage you and hold you accountable.

# Introduction

## Welcome



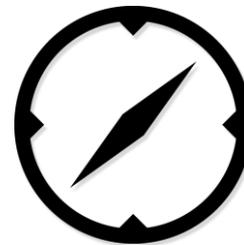
We are ordinary people. But we have an extraordinary God. And that extraordinary God has given us a mission. We are all about fulfilling that mission: helping people experience New Life in Christ, step by step. We are here to help each other take our next steps following Jesus.

---

*We envision a community where people see beyond themselves so every home, neighborhood, school and workplace is experiencing New Life in Christ.*

---

## Using this guide



We achieve our vision when we help each other take our next steps following Jesus. In order to achieve community transformation, we first must experience deep personal transformation. This guide will help you understand our identity as a church, ask questions for your personal reflection, and point you in the right direction. Our prayer is that we will bring glory to God as we pursue Jesus and his mission together.

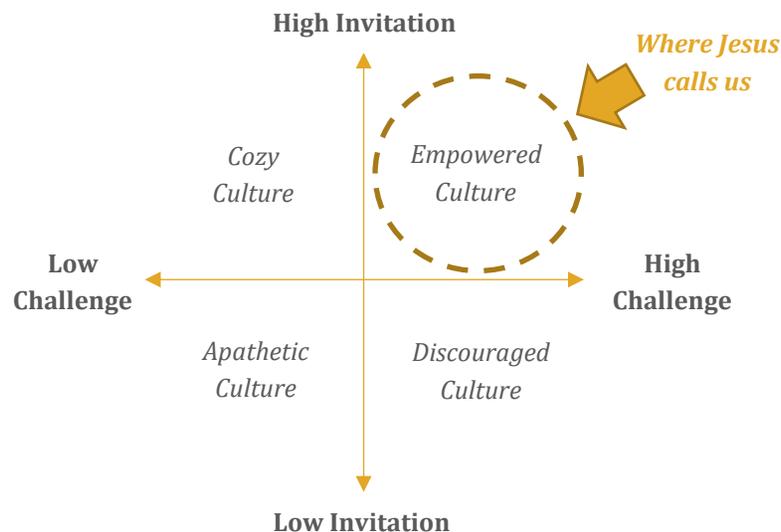
# Getting Started

## What do you need?

Are you comfortable at church but not making a difference? Or are you working hard but stressed and discouraged? If either of these describe you, there is hope! You can follow Jesus differently with high intimacy in your relationships and high challenge in your responsibilities.

## Invitation / Challenge

Reflect on your life. Where do you fall in this discipleship quadrant?



---

*“Jesus created a highly supportive but highly challenging culture.”*

*– Mike Breen, Building a Discipleship Culture*

---

# Measuring Your Progress

## Eat

- Am I eating with people this week, at least one who is not a member of our church?
- Do I have a posture of hospitality towards friends and strangers?
- Am I effective at resolving conflict in my relationships?
- Am I making myself vulnerable to my friends?
- Do members of my group feel cared for?

## Pray

- Am I spending time this week praying to the Father and listening to the Spirit's voice? How am I doing with the spiritual disciplines?
- Solitude ➤ Prayer ➤ Service
- Fasting ➤ Silence ➤ Fellowship
- Worship ➤ Confession ➤ Tithing
- Study of God's word

## Study

- Am I spending time this week studying the Bible and learning Christ?
- Am I becoming more Christlike?
- Am I obedient to God's prompting?
- Am I living by God's power and not in my own power?
- Am I being transformed from the ways of the world to the will of God

# Measuring Your Progress

The following questions are designed to help you reflect on what God is saying to you about getting into action so you can develop Jesus' habits. Habits help us a life of obedience. Jesus said, *"Therefore go and make disciples... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."*

---

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"*  
– 2 Corinthians 5:17

---

## Serve

- Am I serving people this week, at least one of whom is not a member of our church?
  - Am I living a life of generosity?
  - Am I loving others with acts of kindness?
  - Am I encouraging others with words of affirmation?
- Am I showing people they are cared for by giving gifts?

## Tell

- Am I telling others about Jesus, sharing my story and God's story of sovereign grace?
- Do I see myself and live as a missionary?
- Do I intentionally spend time with the poor?
- Do I have a heart for the lost and share my faith?
- Do I long for mercy and justice and for God to restore wholeness?

# Rhythms

At New Life, we live out our faith together with three common rhythms. Each of these rhythms help us accomplish different parts of our mission.

## Love

Our first rhythm is to **Love Jesus**. We experience this through:

- Sunday Gatherings
- Baptism & Profession of Faith (Foundations)

### Questions:

- Am I experiencing God's love together with others in worship?
- Have I received grace and started my journey of faith with Jesus?

## Grow

Another rhythm is to **Grow together**. We experience this by:

- Communities (e.g. men's group, bible studies, etc.)
- Discipleship (Faithwalking)

### Questions:

- Am I pursuing community with others beyond Sunday morning?
- Am I pursuing maturity through intentional discipleship?

## Serve

Our last rhythm is **Serve wholeheartedly**. We do this together through:

- Ministry Teams
- Missional Living (Friendship)

### Questions:

- Am I using my gifts serving inside the church (Ministry Teams)?
- Am I following Jesus serving outside the church (Missional Living)?

# Values

## Why we do what we do

Our values are what motivate us. They lie at the heart of our church. We can't imagine life without them. Our LIFE values are:

- **L**ed by the Word & Spirit – *We don't belong to ourselves. Instead we belong to Jesus. He leads and guides us by his Word and Spirit.*
- **I**ntegrity & Authenticity – *We were made to keep or honor our word as image-bearers of God. We live authentically with others.*

---

*“Integrity means that I do what I say I am going to do when I say I am going to do it, in the way it was meant to be done.”*

---

- **F**amily on Mission – *We are family to one another but also an extended family on mission. We freely share our love for one another.*
- **E**veryone Welcome – *We love all people because God first showed us grace, even in our sin. Hospitality is a key way we love others.*

---

*“New Life has made me feel so welcome. I feel like I have found my home here.”*

---

# Habits

## Jesus calls us



Jesus said “Come follow me” (Mark 1:17) and later said, “As the Father has sent me, I am sending you” (John 20:21). He invited his disciples to join him in his Father’s mission to the world. He also invited them to be with him, learn from him and become like him.

## Getting started

We want you to be like Jesus and do the things he told us to do. How do you know when you’ve reached this goal? The five habits below clarify what this looks like so you can take steps following Jesus.

- **S**erve – *“All the believers were together and had everything in common. They (gave) to anyone who had need.” (Acts 2:44, 45)*
- **T**ell – *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses...” (Acts 1:8)*
- **E**at – *“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you... You are my friends if you do what I command.” (John 15:12, 14)*
- **P**ray – *“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and self-discipline.” (2 Timothy 1:7)*
- **S**tudy – *“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is...” (Romans 12:2)*