Belong



HEALING
GROUPS
SERVING
PARTNER

ABIDING IN THE VINE

Christian faith is about *belonging* to God and belonging to God's family. Among the many analogies Jesus used to describe His followers, disciples, sheep, and ambassadors, He also called us branches. Like a branch is connected to a vine, following Jesus means living a life connected to him. Spiritual growth doesn't happen by self-effort but by allowing Jesus to flow through us and receive His life and grace. Out of His life source, we practice new habits pleasing to God.

Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.
JOHN 15:4

CORE VALUE: DEVOTION TO JESUS

We're passionate about every person encountering Jesus and experiencing personal salvation and a relationship with him. Our goal is for everyone to follow him, grow in him, love like him, serve like him, and lead like him.

Scan QR Codes throughout the packet to see a core value discussion between Lead Pastor Brian Coles and Equipping Pastor Brian Flewelling.

FIRST STEPS OF FAITH

BECOMING A FOLLOWER OF JESUS

Every person must decide for themselves whether to believe in Jesus and follow Him as His disciple. That relationship begins with acknowledging that you are a sinner and receiving Jesus as your savior. The Bible defines this as being "born again." *John 3:3, 16; Romans 10:9–10.*

WATER BAPTISM

Water baptism is the first step a believer takes. It is the outward symbol of an inward 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.*

TO REGISTER FOR BAPTISM:

Visit petra.church/baptism or call the church office 717-354-5394.

We have baptisms in March, July, and November.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you have a defining moment in your life when you decided to follow Jesus?
2. Was your relational environment unhealthy or supportive of your choice to follow Jesus?

GROWING AND HEALING AS A BELIEVER

None of us are perfect. We are all in the process of being transformed by Christ in our attitudes, mindsets, beliefs, habits, relationships, and attachments to things. We need relationships with others that help us receive God's truth, grace, and comfort from one another.

Based on these verses, how does a believer grow and mature?

- *Speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.*
  EPHESIANS 4:15
- *Be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*
  ROMANS 12:2
- *Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*
  JOHN 8:31

CORE VALUE: HEALING AND FREEDOM

We are devoted to developing a culture of compassion and healing. Freedom comes through God's gracious love and redemptive truths and through loving and committed relationships. These are essential ingredients to restoring our lives, families, and communities.



NOTES

Lifespring

SUPPORT

- Adoptive and Foster
- Grief Share
- Miscarriage
- Abortion
- Fearless for Women
- Fearless for Men

RECOVERING

Substance

- Elanco Celebrate Recovery
- Parents of Addicted Loved Ones

Sexual

- Pure Desire
- Sexual Integrity 101
- Conquer Series
- 7 Pillars for Men
- Betrayal & Beyond
- Unraveled for Women

HEALING

- FREEDOM
- Licensed Professional Counseling
- Restoring the Foundations

CORE VALUE: FATHER HEART OF GOD

We love seeing people awaken to the fatherly love of God. God, the infinite creator and perfect judge, loves each one of His children uniquely. This revelation of His goodness helps us relate to His healing, affection, friendship, instruction, protection, and government.

Scan QR code to find information about Lifespring Counseling.

Scan QR code to contact Lifespring Counseling.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

1. How is this view of the Father heart of God similar or different from what you've been taught or what you've believed about God?

YOUR FIRST GROUPS AT PETRA CHURCH

FREEDOM

When our lives align with God's truths, we walk in freedom, joy, and power.

In this twelve-week group, you'll learn some simple but dynamic truths that will deepen your relationship with God, replace performance with rest, break off shame, live in the Holy Spirit, choose forgiveness, speak words of life, replace judgments with blessings, and more.

Learning is personalized through daily habits, a workbook, and weekly discussions in small groups. There are also a few video teachings and a conference at the end. The truths we learn in FREEDOM are foundational to Petra Church's way of life, and we hope this group will be the first group you join here in our community.

SIGN-UP:

Visit petra.church/freedom

FREEDOM groups start in September and February.

The workbook costs $12.

HOW WE LOVE

Reshape your relationships and form deeper attachments to the people you love.

How We Love groups are designed to help you understand the patterns, beliefs, and expectations you bring into your marriage (dating) and parenting relationships. This will enable you to understand what you do with your emotions, express your needs in productive ways, learn to comfort the people you care about, and receive comfort from your loved ones. The goal is to form healthier and deeper attachments to the people you care about.

SIGN-UP:

How We Love groups start in September and February.

The workbook costs $12.

CARING FOR YOU

Our Care Team, led by Pastor Sharon Zimmerman, would love to walk alongside you during times of need. That might include managing an emergency situation, marriage, pre-marriage, finances, organizing a funeral or wedding, gaining relational connectedness, and more. Our Care Team and friends from the Petra Community are ready to care for you! The health and healing of every member of the Petra Family is important to us!